OUTLOOKS

Canada's Gay Community Magazine

December 2004
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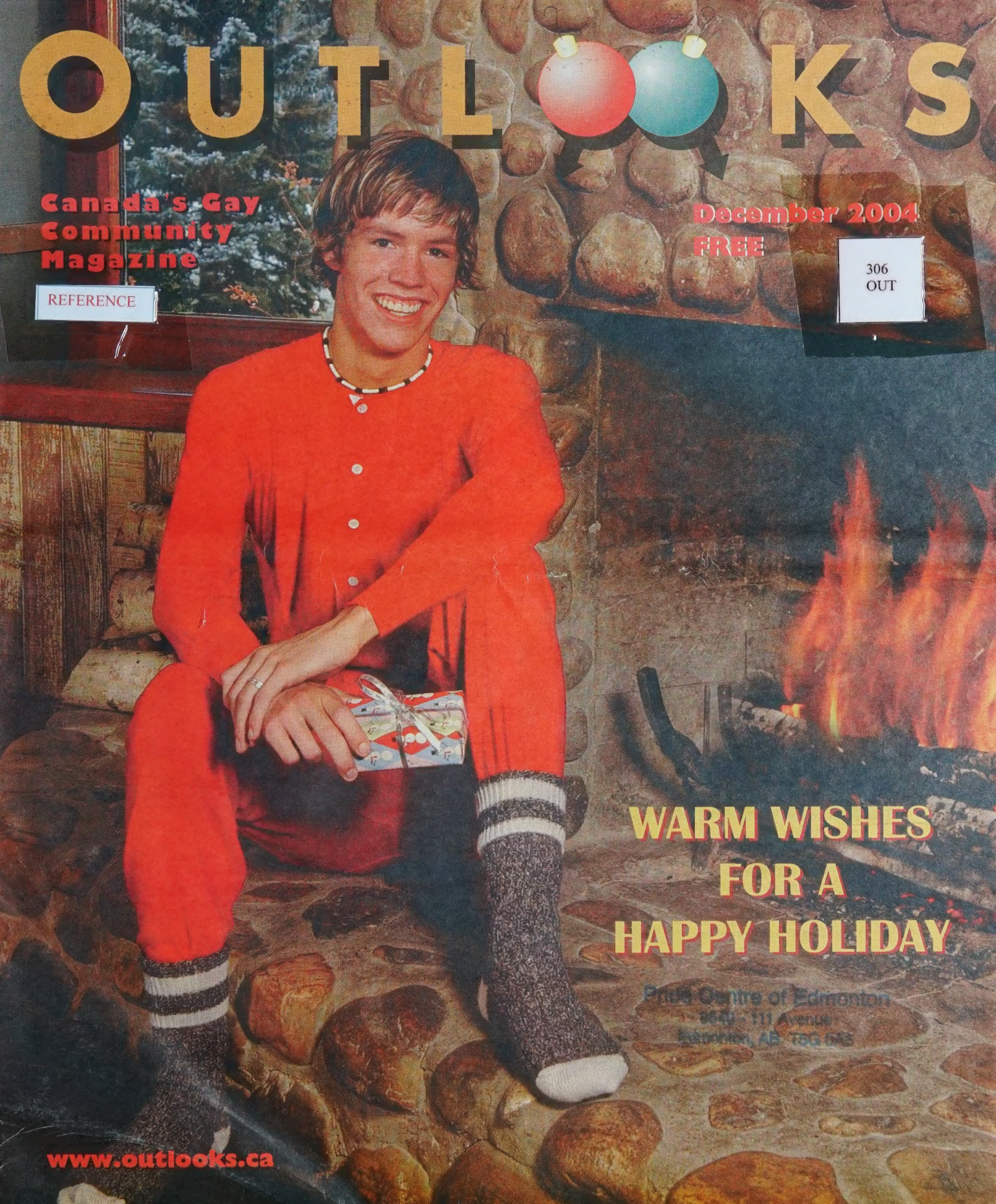

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A Good Reason to Stay Indoors: *Greg photographed on location at Calgary's fabulous River Cafe (online at www.river-cafe.com) by* **Desire Magazine** *Publisher Shelagh Anderson. Special thanks to Sal and Kristi of the River Cafe for all their help with seting up the location.*

what's where

THE BIG, FAT *OUTLOOKS* INTERVIEW

A hit with moviegoers, Nia Vardalos is also an outspoken champion of equal rights for *all* people, including members of the GLBT community. In an exclusive interview, The Divine Miss V shares her thoughts on fame, family and her brief stint as a "drag queen".

MAYBE IT *IS* BETTER TO RECEIVE

Gone are the days of Barbies and Tonka toys (for the boys and girls, respectively!); all hale the arrival of Tina, *Sex* and must-have technology. Josh Murray has the 411 for 12/25/04

TRADING IN THE 'TRAD'

Sugar, have we got some 'plum' ideas for festive faeries: the always-inspirational Damian Kington gives us all a lesson in how to "brand" the holidays with your own signature style. You'll be tickled... well, *purple*!

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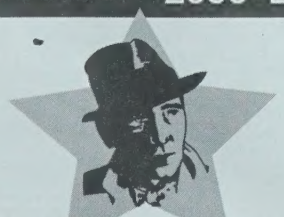

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LETTERS

Outlooks:

As a proud gay Christian, I have to say that I am concerned by the amount of "God bashing" that seems to have crept into the pages of your publication lately. Two months ago, a letter from the editor headlined "Questions of faith", called the value and even the origin of the Bible into question. Then, in the November *Outlooks*, editorial writer John Coulbourn went so far as to say "I'm starting to think that the only way to keep the 'civil' in 'civilization' is to bind all of our churchmen and politicians with bonds of steel (very heavy steel, preferably anchored in concrete), and then throw the whole lot of them in the nearest river and walk away." This was also highlighted in colour as a separate quote, in large letters. I feel that this recent anti-Christian "trend" on the part of *Outlooks* writers is both unfair and discriminatory—am I to expect more of the same (I'll stop picking the magazine up) or were these isolated comments that only reflect the bias of their writers? If this *is* representitive of *Outlooks*' views on Christianity and Christians, then your publication—and those who speak for it—is doing more harm than good.

A. Daignault

Etobicoke, ON

The Editor Responds:

I will agree that the opinions expressed were certainly subjective, but that is the nature of editorials: to present a biased view that invites comment. (And thank you for taking the time to do so.) I think perhaps in both of the examples you cited you may have missed the point of what John and I were saying. In both cases, the aim was not to "bash" God but to address very legitimate concerns about certain elements in the Christian community, specifically those who use God and/or the Bible to attack gays and lesbians. I personally feel that, for some, the Bible can be a great tool for coping with life's ups and downs, but when it is used as a blunt instrument to pound other people's ideas and ideals into the heads of those who don't share the same views, it is then a shining example of what is truly "unfair and discriminatory". If this is upsetting to you, I might advise that you steer clear of this month's interview with writer/actress Nia Vardalos (at least certain parts) and might also suggest that you avoid Mr. Coulbourn's column altogether—he has a hive's worth of bees in his bonnet regarding organized religion violating the boundaries between church and state and I doubt they—or he—will stop stinging anytime soon.

Dear *Outlooks*,

Well, another election has passed and here we are stuck with another Conservative provincial government in Alberta. A less popular Conservative government than before, but it still smells just as bad as the previous ones. I am sorry to say that, once again, voter apathy played a big part in this situation. Just like the U.S., voter turnout in the eighteen to twenty-five age range was pitiful—and this is the age bracket that seems so gung-ho on getting married someday whenever this topic is discussed. All I can say is they better not plan on doing it in Alberta, because it looks like Klein and his henchmen will fight it all the way 'til the bitter end.

Kudos to those who *did* make the effort to vote against King Ralph and his crooked cronies; at least the message has been sent that they've lost a bit of their grip in a province that somehow still seems content to exist in the 1950s.

R. Kirk

Edmonton, AB

The Editor Responds:

Looks like this one will be a war of attrition: perhaps if left to their own devices long enough the Conservatives will do themselves in, just as George W. will doubtless do in the credibility of the Republican party after another four years of making the U.S. a bigger mess than it already is.

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Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to:
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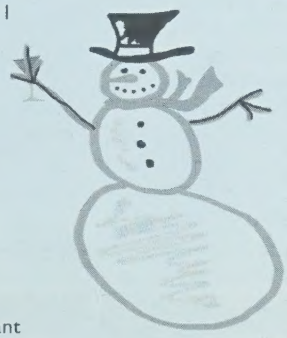
Be festive despite it all

By Roy Heale

Yet another year has drawn to a close and the festive season is upon us once again. And the past twelve months have certainly proven to be interesting for the gay and lesbian community throughout North America. Lest we forget, December is purported to be all about a religious holiday centred on the family, despite all the frenzied materialism we see marking the occasion. We know that, in the United States, the religious right will be celebrating their recent electoral victory that gave George W. Bush four more years to defend *his* family values. Here in Canada, we know that religious groups are preparing for a battle against any changes to our marriage laws, changes that would include same-sex marriage. Instead of an inclusive definition of family, these lobbyists are fighting for exclusive domain over marriage and *un*equal rights. In fact, as I write this, an announcement was made that Conservative MP Rob Moore intended to introduce a private member's bill in the House of Commons to limit the definition of marriage to being 'one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others', an almost-identical maneuver made by the Alliance not so long ago.

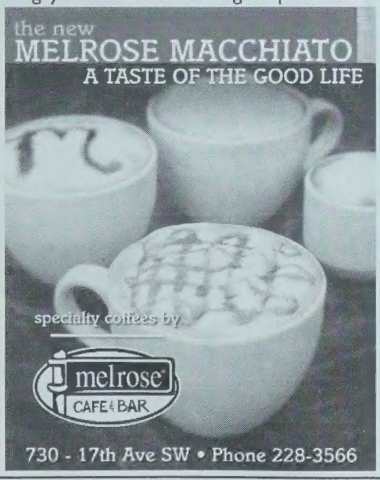
As we deck the halls, don our gay apparel and find the perfect Christmas tree, it's important to remember that, amidst our own family celebrations and traditions steeped in history, we must still manage to look to the future. Since the recent U.S. election, thousands of gay and lesbian Americans have been looking to the north and investigating Canadian immigration laws. Many of these couples (and singles) are very serious about leaving their homeland for our more tolerant Canadian society. In fact, a new Canadian website—**www.gayspaces.org**, created by Larry Dickinson of Fredericton NB—is all about Canadians helping their neighbours settle in a new land. What better meaning of family than "love thy neighbour"—and there's no better way of doing that at this point than lending a helping hand. Dickinson's website intends to match up potential Canadians with Americans who need a gay-friendly place to stay as they explore permanent housing and job options here in the Great White North.

Of course, Alberta will be considered the 51st state when it comes to equal rights for gays and lesbians. King Ralph is back on his self-made throne vowing all the way to power that the "notwithstanding" clause will be his weapon of choice should the Canadian government redefine the marriage act to allow same-sex weddings. Alberta will probably be the *only* province in Canada where the American way is considered the best way and, if we are to believe him, His Royal Ralphness will rule imperiously for another full term. Will it come to gays and lesbians having to flee to other provinces to remain truly Canadian and enjoy their rights as protected by the Canadian Constitution? Of course, this would please the Conservative Party of Alberta immensely, as Liberal supporters would be leaving the province in droves, thus ensuring their reign forever. The arrogance of his provincial government is truly amazing and, unfortunately, their power seems unstoppable.



During this festive holiday season, as you spend time with your own family (however you determine that definition!), be sure to celebrate the achievements of 2004 and prepare for the challenges of 2005. Whether you haven't found Mr. Right or Ms. Perfect *yet*, or if you and your partner are planning to tie the knot in the new year, it is important for the community *as a whole* to resist the opposition to our own "family" values. Make a New Year's resolution to join the debate, take action and participate in the political process, as this is sure to be an historic time for the equality of Canada's GLBT citizens.

From all of us here at *Outlooks*, we wish you a happy holiday season, a prosperous 2005 and many joyous family festivities, now and in the future. Make this an especially gay time of the year wherever you may be in this wonderful country.



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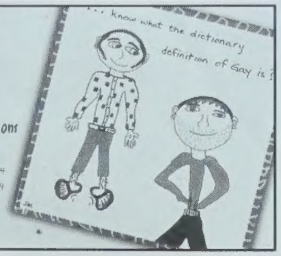

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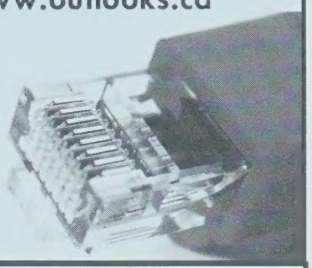

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Proofreader ..... E. Colleen Hanna
Contributing Writers:

Charlene Lichtenstein, John Coulbourn, Peter Carlyle-Gordge, Michael Harris, Damian Kington, Sheldon Cooke, Robert Kaiser, Josh Murray

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Outlooks Mailing Address:
Box 439, Suite 100,
1039 17th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2
Phone: (403) 228-1157
Fax: (403) 228-7735
Toll-Free Fax: 1-877-885-6657
Outlooks Toronto:
(416) 645-0113
Toll-Free (866) 645-0113
Calgary Office Toll-Free:
1-888-228-1157
Primary E-mail: main@outlooks.ca
Editorial: editor@outlooks.ca
Sales: sales@outlooks.ca
Graphics: graphics@outlooks.ca
World Wide Web: www.outlooks.ca

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When Right is wrong

By John Coulbourn

Now that we in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community have apparently reclaimed the word 'queer'—at least to the point where people who would never dream of using the dreaded 'n'-word feel comfortable throwing 'queer' around like a precocious two-year-old after a paternal cuss-fest——maybe it's time we set our sights on similarly reclaiming the world 'right'.

Certainly, in the wake of the electoral madness currently gripping our neighbours to the south (it's called Bush-fever and it's a knee-jerk mental affliction that paralyses entire nations for periods of up to four years) I can't be the *only* one who's thinking that, in our modern world, what's 'Right' in a political sense is rarely 'right' at all.

In a world where people do what is right, for instance, there has long been a freedom of—as well as a freedom *from*—this thing called religion. In that world, people are allowed, even encouraged, to believe whatever they like (theologically speaking) but are discouraged from inflicting those beliefs on anyone else.

In a world controlled by the political Right, however, it seems that freedom of religion means that those who have it think it's 'right' to impose it on all of us—not merely through very public expressions of their faith, but by the enactment of laws that ensure that we must all live not by the universal laws of decency that are found in every civilized society but by the tenets of their particular faith, instead.

Regardless of how you feel about abortion, for instance (and I don't know anyone who thinks that abortion is a cracker-jack idea that should be used by every pregnant woman), you might think that it is right, in certain situations, that the decision of whether or not to avail herself of an abortion is a decision best left to an individual woman and her conscience.

But if you're thinking Right, as opposed to right—that kind of thinking has just got to go.

On the Right, it seems, mankind (and ironically, it does seem to be a movement dominated by males) has a right to stop a woman from having an abortion simply because such an action—regardless of the woman's religious beliefs—would offend the religious beliefs of the ruling class. It all seems a little... well, *disingenuous*, when one recalls that the far-Right Christian community once embraced a slogan that went something like "Fags: Kill 'em all and let God sort it out."

By the Right's lights, it seems, God's resources are best spent on dead fags but not on living women.

Further, if one wants to offer up prayers in school, it may seem to most people that it's right to allow them to do so—as long as they do it quietly and in an unobtrusive fashion.

But it turns out that most people would be wrong.

It seems that the Right thing is for prayer to be public and everyone should be at least pressured, if not compelled, by their peers to join in with said prayers or be branded an unbeliever, a heretic or, worse still, a liberal.

In the rather prickly area of same sex-marriage, of course, balancing the right thing and the Right thing is proving equally problematic. While no right-thinking individual has suggested, to my knowledge, that same-sex marriage should be compulsory, even for 'queers', it does seem right to a lot of us that, should two people of the same sex wish to form a lasting, loving covenant equal in every way to the unions formed by heterosexuals couples of the opposite sex, they should be allowed to do just that.

Turns out that it wouldn't be Right, however, because in a world ruled by the political Right we may all be allowed to play, however reluctantly, but only the heterosexuals are allowed to collect the prizes.

It's just another attitude that leads to a lot of confusion, particularly when the Right gets on its high horse and starts interfering in the rights of others—and that simply isn't right at all.

So Merry Christmas, and in the New Year ahead, let's vow to do what's proper. To hell with what is Right. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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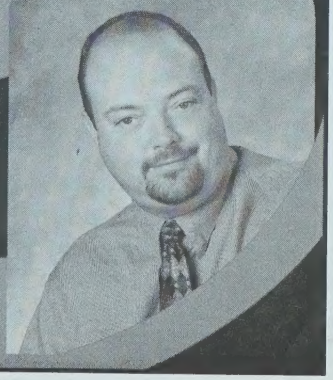

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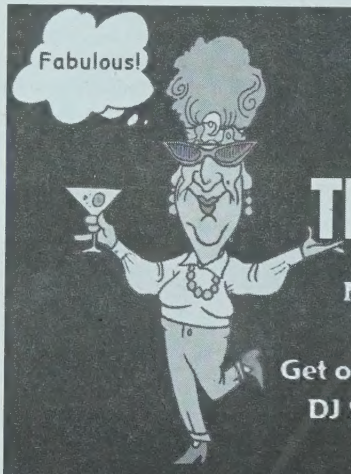

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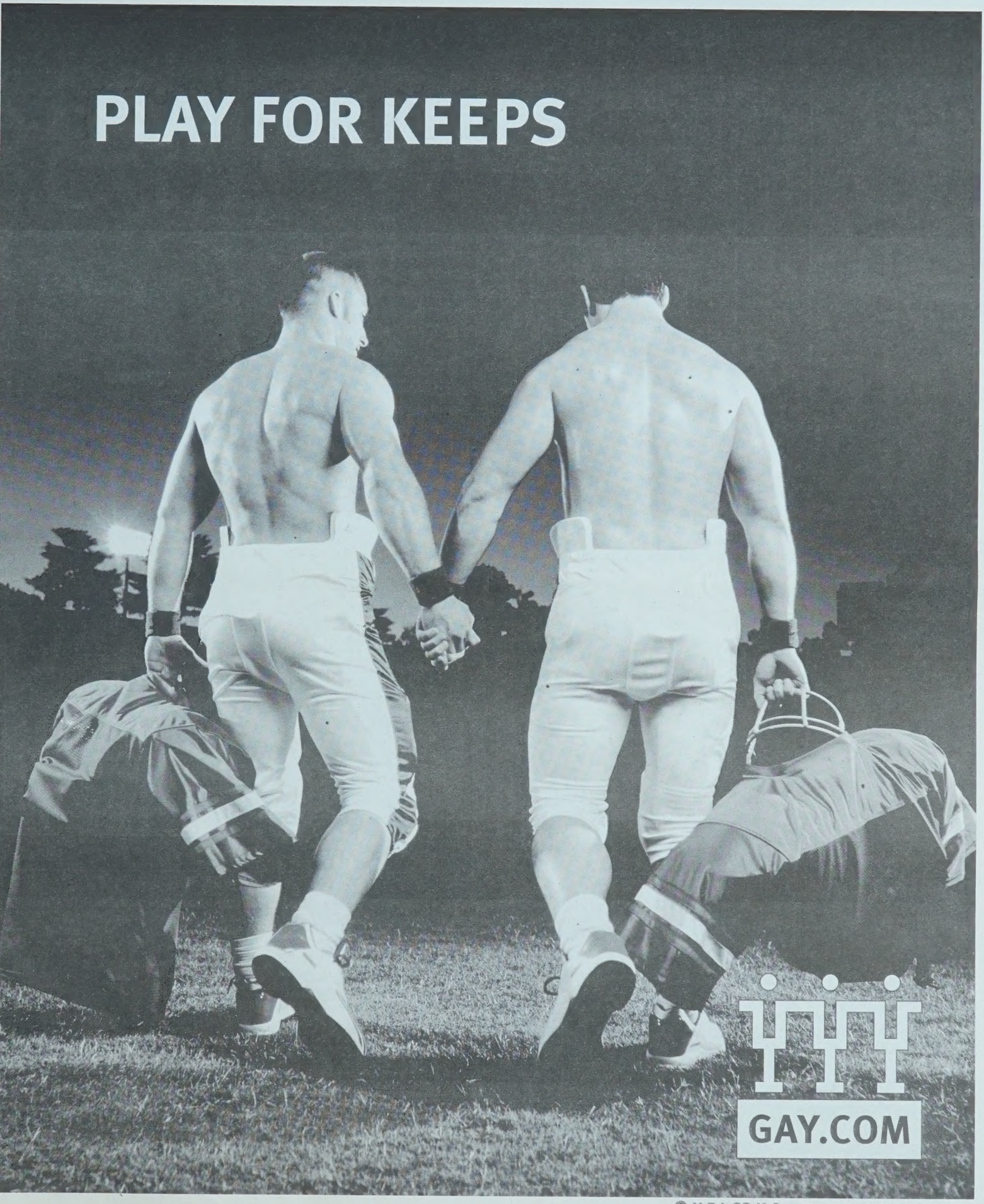
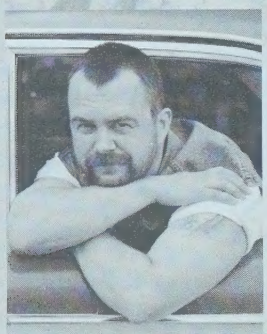


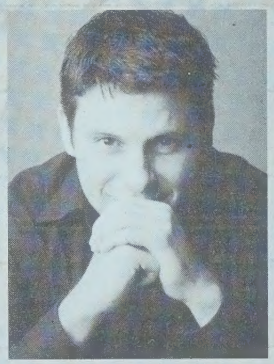
RSVP

National GLBT Writing Competition

RSVP 2004'S JUDGES: JAMES JOHNSTONE AND ROBERT GRAY



James Johnstone, an accomplished author in his own right, is best known for compiling and editing the *Quickies* series of short-short fiction anthologies, all of which have been well received worldwide by both readers and critics alike. The most recent collection, *Quickies 3*, was also short-listed for a Lambda Literary Award this past year. Mr. Johnstone was pleased to see that RSVP revealed potential new work for his next installment of the *Quickies* series.



Robert Gray is the author of *Waterboys* (a novel serialized in Vancouver's *Xtra! West* biweekly) as well as many other critically acclaimed short stories, scripts and prose pieces. He is also the head of the Vancouver Film School's writing department.

Outlooks would like to thank both Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Gray for their time, patience and dedication in judging RSVP's numerous entries.

Note: The following story, "Philip", is representative of winner Michael Harris' writing style, and is only part of the selected work he submitted for RSVP.

Philip

By Michael Harris, Winner of *Outlooks'* RSVP Short-short Fiction Competition

Heavy came the morning. But packed in cotton; a thumb pressing on some internal faculty. His older brother used to press the backs of spoons to his eyes. Light came to the classroom through a sky roof. In those broad arms of yellow, momentary dust galaxies were discovered, swirling overtop his students, the nodding distracted heads. Dust always on the first day of term. The fans? The floors?

To Philip's mind it was a new but familiar portrait, every four months. The assemblage of bodies, each one so uniformly unique in preparation—corded sweaters and knee-torn jeans. The girls in the front row, pitching forward. Always a boy who looked far too young. Always a wallflower with acne scars about the face, unsuccessfully filled in with powder. And always the slow-breathing, bored anticipation. Many looked out the windows or into paper cups of coffee. He smiled, to put them at ease. One boy, through uneven bangs and with frightenting directness, smiled back.

Well, begin at least. "Good morning." Pout your face and stare in your palms. "This is English 340—introduction to the Honours program. Is everyone in the right room?" A shifting of bodies from one elbow to the other signaled their general acquiescence.

Philip continued with an outline for the term's reading, his expectations and forms of evaluation. He passed out a set of criteria for the term paper and a list of supplementary texts, all the while making a fixed effort to not stare at the boy with the bangs, the boy who had answered to Noah Johnstone.

It was not until March that Philip learned all their names. He never used them. Noah's, yes, he recited mentally. A month or two disappeared one morning.

As the days grew longer and the glass box of a classroom collected heat, Noah shed layers of sweater and fleece, revealing more pale skin and more. The incremental striptease, season-long and appearing only by a few mediated flashes every week, was a rarified torture. First, Philip was privy to an inch more of the stubborn neck. Then a pair of arms with sun-softened hairs. Legs, red knees, hemmed by faded black shorts. And even, for one hour when Noah wore a tank top, he glimpsed two tufted red patches underarm. Noah raised one hand in the air, eager to ask his question. The shallow concave of fur!

Philip found that an inner technology had begun to record the things Noah said in class, however inconsequential, and that this mechanism played them back later, greatly dimmed, so that strenuous attention was required to hear. The most banal of phrases became–how aggravating to discover—precious.

RSVP first place winner Michael Harris (pictured here receiving his cash prize of $1,000 from *Outlooks* publisher Roy Heale)writes book reviews, art criticism and fiction for several publications. Currently, he's wrapping up a sexual health textbook for the groundbreaking Totally Outright program. He lives in Vancouver with his boyfriend and some hardy plants.

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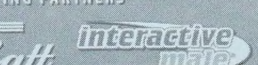

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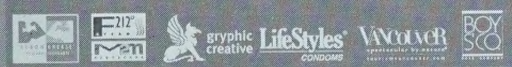

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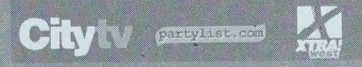

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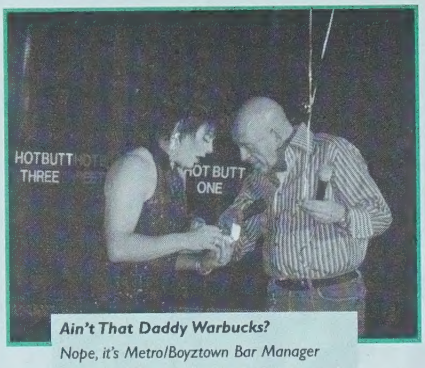
Izora Jackson Jones 1,000th Show
METRO/BOYZTOWN

What's In A Name?
Rather a lot, apparently: Izora Jackson Jones demonstrates just how she got the moniker the "Great Big Mouth of the South". Those guys on the KFC ads could learn a thing or two here...



Ain't That Daddy Warbucks?
Nope, it's Metro/Boyztown Bar Manager David Donald—although with the diamond earrings he's presenting Izora on behalf of the bar, you might wanna call him that!

Flight of Aquavit Reading
McNALLY ROBINSON BOOKSELLERS

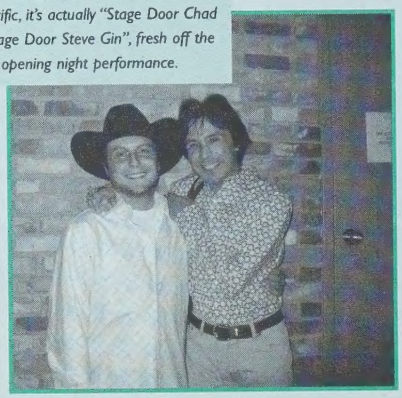
He Gets Around!
Fresh off a flight from a reading in Ottawa (see page 18), author Anthony Bidulka flashes a quick grin before launching into the Calgary reading of his latest novel, Flight of Aquavit, *which was reviewed in last month's issue of* Outlooks.

Planning an event in Calgary? Contact Cap at (403) 228-1157 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos By: Outlooks Staff

Seed Soiree
KOSMETIKOS SALON & ACADEMY

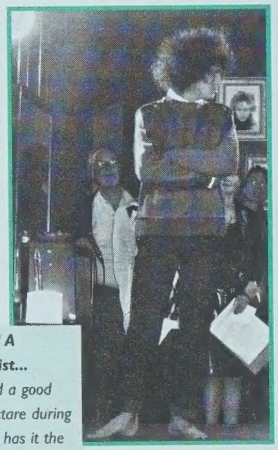
We Are Out Of Mix... I Repeat: We Are Out Of Mix!
Kosmetikos' own Jami Symons addresses a number of key social issues via the mic, not the least of which was a brief (but understandable) interruption in bar service!

Stage Door Johnnies
To be more specific, it's actually "Stage Door Chad Nobert" and "Stage Door Steve Gin", fresh off the stage from their opening night performance.

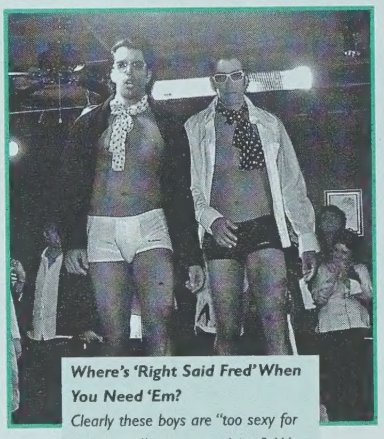


Dear Mr. Klein Official Opening Night
PUMPHOUSE THEATRES

The Play's The Thing...
It certainly is for these two gents: Dear Mr. Klein *playwright Bruce Chambers (left) and director Christopher Cinammon, pictured here on the set at the Pumphouse Theatre.*



What? I Used A Volumizing Mist...
Giving the crowd a good dose of hair 'n' stare during the show. Word has it the lad's up for a job guarding Buckingham Palace...



Where's 'Right Said Fred' When You Need 'Em?
Clearly these boys are "too sexy for their pants"—any complaints? We didn't think so...!

A Glamourous Good Deed
One of the many fabulous volunteer models who took to the runway in aid of a good cause.

Grand Opening Celebration
TWISTED ELEMENT

"Girl, Open Your Eyes–He's Taking The Picture" "Shut Up; I'm Being 'Sultry'"
Proud co-owner R.J., with bar babe Eartha Quake, behind the scenes at the club's VIP reception.

Sow What?
In this case, it's the seeds of goodwill; pictured here are Kosmetikos co-owner Jami Symons and Mustard Seed Street Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Cherie Tetz

Cavity Search
A quick glance around the space yielded off-duty diva Carly York-Jones (left), Kelly Ward of Priape (middle), and Twisted's queen-in-residence, Nina Tron.

Paparazzo Pause
Twisted Element co-owner Clif (right) takes a short break from the opening night madness to flash the camera a smile and "get some sugar" from pal Bob.

Model: Jason Harley • Photograph: Robert Laliberté

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IT'S THE WAY WE PLAY

A BRAND NEW CHRISTMAS

By Damian Kington

Christmas…*sexy*? I know it may seem like I'm pushing the 'blasphemy envelope' here (and sounding a little FOX TV-ish), but it's about time that our beloved holiday season got a make-over. Picture Santa appearing from parted curtains, walking cautiously towards an awaiting mirror, and then wailing excitedly and uncontrollably at the sight of a buffed, bronzed, chiselled, newly-constructed physique—'The Claus' becomes '*The Swan*'. I'm sure many would welcome a *Swan*-like Santa shimmying down the chimney, and would offer him more than just plates of cookies and milk for his trouble!

OK, so Santa "Greek God" Clause may be even more of an imagination figment than the original, but is there really much harm in envisaging a festive season with some edge; a sleek and modern overhaul to your annual entertaining and decorating rituals?

Tradition is great—but so, too, are reinvention and evolution!

Don't get me wrong: I *do* love this time of year, and the tradition that comes with it. I love getting together with family and friends, hosting parties, going to parties, the exchange of presents, and, of course, the opulent over-indulgence that is the life-blood of the season. Whether you're Christian, Islamic, Atheist, or Sagittarian, there's plenty to celebrate at this time of year and much to be thankful for.

But 'tis the season to be jolly…not the season to do and decorate, as you have in Christmases past.

Just because you have boxes upon boxes of tinsel, baubles, angels and niece-and-nephew-made ornaments, that doesn't mean you need to hang them all and make your home look like Wal-Mart just exploded in it—as much as it may evoke childhood memories! Similarly, if acceptances to your yearly festive shindig have been steadily declining in recent years, maybe it's time to rethink that annual 'carol singing with eggnog' enticement.

Even with some traditional elements included, there's no reason why this year's festivities can't be chic, stylish and just a little bit sexy—without, of course, breaking the bank! A few novel, inexpensive ideas mixed with some innovative, eye-catching themes, will leave you—and your friends and family—imbued with a fresh dose of festive cheer.

A Brand New Christmas

Ever thought of "branding" your festive activities? I'm not talking hot-iron-on-cowhide kind of branding, but have you thought of applying a single creative concept to all your Christmas projects?

Branding is more than just a theme: it's about creating an entire experience. In the corporate world, some companies have become slaves to their brand—trying to control every impression they make. A tad ambitious for a lone person planning Christmas, but, as any marketing grad can explain, there are some basic, practical principles of branding that you can certainly embrace. Namely: keep it simple, keep it consistent, make it have impact and make it meaningful.

Essentially, think about everything you need to do, plan, make, or buy for Christmas and then think about a creative and visual way to tie it all together.

An easy way to do this is with colour. Here's a tip: if you use colour, keep your brand 'palette' to just one, two, or three hues. Choose colours that are complementary and keep them relevant for the season. Don't jar the eye with too much business—after all, an all-white scheme can have just as much impact, if not more, than a mishmash of colour.

You may even want to use an ornament as a basis for your 'brand'—a star, a reindeer, a string of snowflakes. For inspiration, go through all your stored decorations or drop into your local dollar store, a *fantastic* place to rummage around for ideas (and it's cheap, too!). If you're handy with programs like PhotoShop or Illustrator, you could probably even create some interesting designs and/or pieces using your own home computer.

In planning this year's holiday season, let's look at three broad areas you'll need to consider: gifts, ambience and your annual event. In particular, we'll look at how you can apply a brand, some ideas for doing things that are a little away from the ordinary, as well as some tips on what to avoid. To illustrate, we'll use colour as the brand: a white, silver and plum palette is a fantastic combination (plum being a hot colour this year).

The Gifts

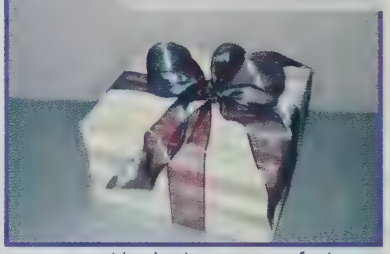
BRANDING:

❍ Wrap all your presents in white with silver or plum bows. For variety, you could buy different types of ribbon, but stick with the same colours.

❍ Hand-make some simple gift cards, using plum-coloured paper and a silver metallic pen.

❍ Find some simple season's greetings cards—white ones are fairly easy to obtain—and buy some plum-coloured envelopes from a stationery store.

Bridal wrap—like the pearlescent and matte stripe seen here—is an elegant way to bring white or neutrals into your wrapping scheme



❍ If simplicity is your mantra, you may want to consider buying a crate of wine or champagne with bottles that display a white or plum-coloured label. Then simply tie a silver bow around each and attach a gift card.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT:

❍ If you're on a budget, consider doing some baking—perhaps a large batch of cookies. An innovative way of packaging them is to make bundles of cookies using cotton napkins, then place them inside unused aluminum paint cans (readily available at paint stores). Tie a ribbon around the can and add a gift card—simple, effective and inexpensive.

AVOID:

❍ Using kitsch wrapping paper plastered with Microsoft Clipart-looking Christmas symbols. Nasty!

Oh, Balls! A simple centrepiece with maximum visual appeal, seen here with a combo of shiny, matte and opalescent baubles

The Ambience

BRANDING:

❍ Decorate your tree with your brand palette colours, using baubles, tinsel, and well-hidden fairy lights. Your tree is the centrepiece of your home's festive decorations, so make sure its impact is maximised (for the right reasons!).

❍ Buy lots of candles—particularly tea lights; they are a fantastic and effective way of creating instant ambience. Light some larger candles as well—have mainly white candles, then add a few plum-

continued opposite

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ONE DOLLAR

from previous

coloured scented ones for effect.

❍ Decorate your table with a white cloth, silver sequins and a centrepiece made up of shiny and matte purple baubles piled into a transparent bowl. You could even add a plum-coloured runner.

❍ Tie small baubles with silver ribbon and use them to tie up table napkins.

❍ Think about not having an actual tree. Here's a challenge: go shopping for a tree but promise yourself not to buy one. There are plenty of alternatives to trees that you can use—you might be surprised at what's out there! Apart from fake trees made from a variety of materials in an array of colours, *anything* that is conical in shape and able to support at least a string of fairy lights or tinsel can be used instead of a tree. Look around at store window dressings or magazines for inspiration.

Candles add ambience and impact. Try re-thinking the use of votive holders, to: the one below would be perfect for serving guests sake at a Japanese-themed holiday dinner

❍ Here's an idea for a minimalist setting: get small, medium and large metal hoops and construct a simple cone-shaped frame with metal rods. Then wind a single cord of fairy lights around it and—voila: an impressionist's version of a Christmas tree!

❍ Going overboard with your brand colour palette: you don't need to brand *everything* in a room. Purple-coloured gels on all your lighting fixtures, for example, may be going a *little* overboard. A few simple touches here and there will have maximum impact.

❍ Multi-coloured flashing lights!

The Event

❍ Incorporate a plum theme into your annual Christmas party—your invitations, decorations and dress-code can incorporate the colour scheme, as can the food you serve. Some plum pudding for dessert, perhaps, or plum brandy after the meal?

❍ Tree decorating parties are a great way to kick-off the season—and a great way to populate your barren tree (or tree alternative). Ask guests to bring decorations that are in keeping with your brand palette—a fantastic way to launch your Christmas "campaign".

❍ How about inventing a signature drink for your festive feast? You could even base a party around it! Plum-favoured cocktails or a simple ice wine and champagne concoction with a sexy name would certainly impress.

❍ Organising too many events (too much of a good thing, as the saying goes!). Keep your Christmas hosting calendar to one or *maybe* two events. Or perhaps, to avoid double booking, you could team up with friends and have a progressive dinner party: drinks and appetizers at one place, entrée at another and dessert at a final location. Undoubtedly, your friends and family will welcome such an efficient consolidation of "duties"!

There you have it: go forth and brand—be bold, be modern, be daring. And if anyone tries to criticize you for being untraditional, well… 'bah, humbug!' to them! Season's greetings everyone… and *have fun!*

Damian Kington is a freelance writer, style expert and designer based in Toronto. He has contributed articles to a number of magazines both in Canada and his native Australia. Damian's loft-style space was recently featured on the Home To Go holiday entertaining special on HGTV.

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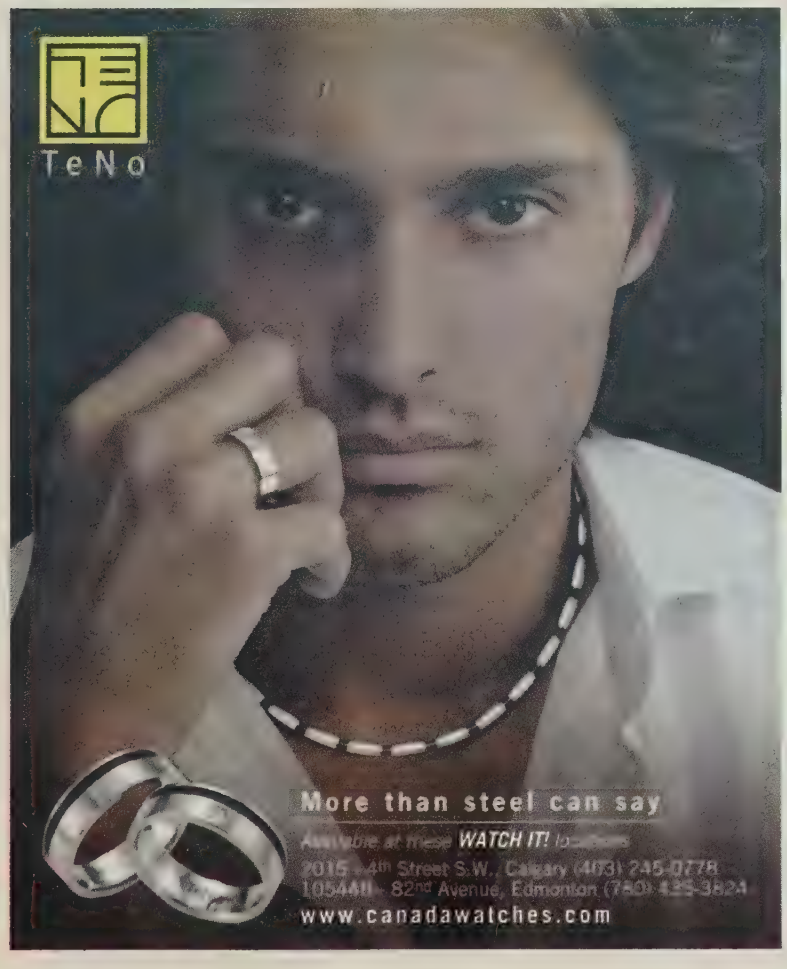


Funding for the future

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

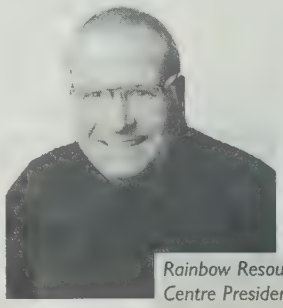
The GLBT community has made huge advances in gaining acceptance and credibility during the past two decades, thanks largely to the work of countless dedicated volunteers who have donated money, organized socials, produced literature, lobbied and generally kept the rainbow flag flying proudly, come hell or high water.

Core funding was non-existent and GLBT resource centres relied on the charity of friends and tons of donated hours by committed idealists. Over the years, the demands on GLBT resource centres have changed, but the challenges remain and the work goes on.

Winnipeg's Rainbow Resource Centre, around under different names and in several locations over the past thirty-three years, is a good example. Activist Chris Vogel has been involved most of that time and says budgets and services have undergone big changes.

"When we began, everything was done by volunteers and we probably had a budget of little more than a thousand dollars a year," he says. "Today we have a paid, full-time services coordinator and we run many programs, such as the Breaking Barriers anti-homophobia project."

There is still a need for major core funding but the good news is that the Winnipeg Foundation, with hundreds of millions in its control, has this year awarded the centre close to $26,000 to hire a therapist/counsellor to work twenty-one hours a week, with a good chance it will renew the grant the following year. The therapist starts work in January.



Rainbow Resource Centre President Chris Krawchenko

Centre coordinator Kim Allen says drop-in counselling has been provided by volunteers and University of Manitoba social work students on an ad hoc basis up until now. With a paid counsellor position, she says the centre can do ongoing counselling without having to refer people to outside agencies with long waiting lists.

Counsellors deal with all age groups and many problems—job stress, coming out, addiction, depression, breakups. They also get youth referred by school counsellors and, sometimes, the parents of GLBT youth.

Centre president Chris Krawchenko says the Winnipeg Foundation grant is an important milestone and his fundraising committee plans to seek partnerships with other charities and donors, such as the Winnipeg Jewish Foundation, which makes grants for equipment and other supplies.

He says another possible source of funding to help anchor staff and programming would be official membership in the United Way, which raises millions of dollars for a wide list of charities. The resource centre gets about $13,000 a year from United Way, but only because its supporters specifically write on their payroll deduction form for United Way contributions that they want their unlisted GLBT charity to get their donation. Finding the place on the forms to do this isn't such an easy job, and if the centre became an official member of United Way it would be much easier to access funding.

"We have seen how other centres raise money and in many ways we're ahead of the game and quite aggressive," says Krawchenko. "The trick is to match services we are able to and want to provide with grants available for particular services. We will seek out the pot of gold wherever we can find funding."

Chris Vogel, who was treasurer for the centre from 1974 to 2002, agrees the centre needs to get into the United Way. "As far as I can see there have been no new groups admitted for a long time so we have to get working on that," he says.

Vogel says in the early days the centre kept going through financial support from the University of Manitoba students' union and, later, through donations from Gio's, the bar. Gradually things evolved and the centre got funds from ACAP, the federal Aids Community Action Program.

It has also worked with and received limited project funding from provincial health funders, educational organizations and the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Last year the centre had income of $155,000 and actually ran a small surplus. Vogel says some $35,000 came in through donations. Regular socials are still an important source of funds.

An annual community yard sale also provides funds and recently the resource centre worked with a film company which offered to provide the centre with ten dollars per person for every "extra" it could find for a crowd scene. The Winnipeg centre has also made money from some of the literature it's pioneered and produced—especially in the field of combating homophobia. Creative fundraising is the key.

It has helped break down homophobic barriers in many areas, especially with providers of health care and education. Says Vogel: "We have sent brochures and leaflets across the country for many years. We pioneered one pamphlet about homosexuality, religion and what the Bible really has to say on the subject. We still get requests for it."

Another key area for financial development is wills and bequests. The centre has become a member of Leave A Legacy, a group that includes charities, lawyers and accountants. Its aim is to encourage giving back through bequests.

"Some fairly wealthy gay men have passed on without leaving GLBT bequests because they were very much in the closet and didn't want the attention," says Vogel. "People of my generation are much more 'out'. And remember also that baby boomers are the richest generation in the history of the planet; they are more open-minded and more likely to provide support if bequests are explained to them."

In particular, he notes that it's possible now with good financial advice and tax planning to make sizeable donations while still alive. Insurance policies, shares, cash, real estate or any kind of valuables can be bequeathed and there can be significant tax advantages to an estate if sound financial advice is sought in advance.

In the meantime, Vogel is happy with financial progress but says there is still a never-ending need for volunteers. "The centre has three phone lines and they are always busy, not just with calls from the GLBT community, but now also with inquiries from straight people and many community groups," he says. "It's nice that we have a fulltime services coordinator but she can't do everything. We get calls from people wanting advice, workshops, speakers and much more."

The centre has cancelled its small, annual fund-raising gala dinner for March 2005. Instead, it plans to hold a new, bigger event in the fall and its fundraising committee will sit down to thrash out some new ideas early in the New Year. ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for* Maclean's *and* The Financial Post. *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.

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Out & About WINNIPEG

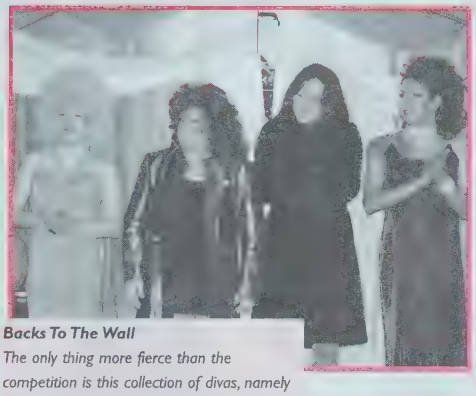
Flight of Aquavit

GRANT PARK McNALLY ROBINSON

Ha-Ha—Look, I'm In Another Photo Spread!
Well-travelled (not to mention well-photographed) author Anthony Bidulka following his Winnipeg reading of Flight of Aquavit.

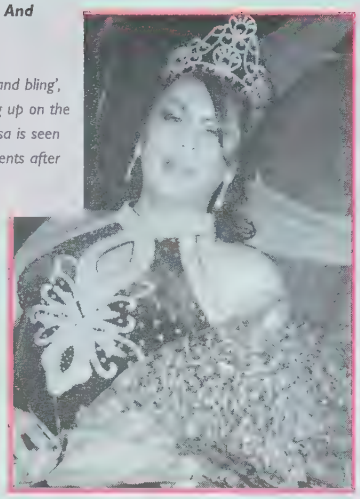
Ms Club 200

CLUB 200



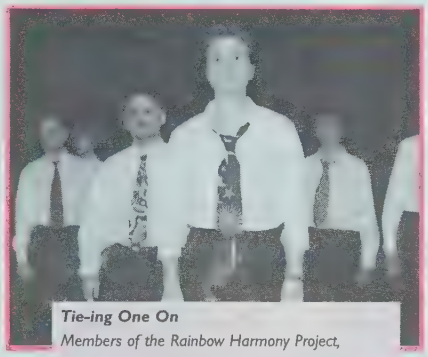
Backs To The Wall
The only thing more fierce than the competition is this collection of divas, namely (from left) Amber Dawn, Miss Margaret, Jessika Venom and Willyssa Thunderpuss.

Thunderpuss And Lightning
Actually, that's 'Thunderpuss and bling', but who's hung up on the details? Willyssa is seen here just moments after being crowned.



Running With Scissors

FRANCO-MANITOBAN CULTURAL CENTRE

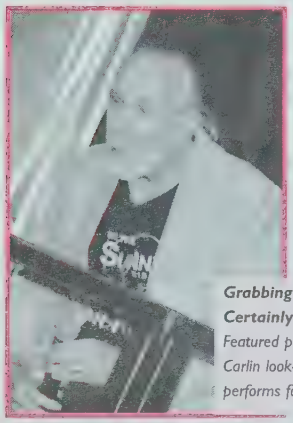


Tie-ing One On
Members of the Rainbow Harmony Project, demonstrating their performance finesse at the Franco-Manitoban centre.

Mixed Media Magic
Adesola Akinleye dances as the Rainbow Harmony Project Choir sings—according to all present, a perfect combination.

Laugh 'Til Your

GIO'S



Grabbing The Mic... We Certainly Hope So!
Featured performer (and George Carlin look-a-like) Sunny Knight performs for the crowd.

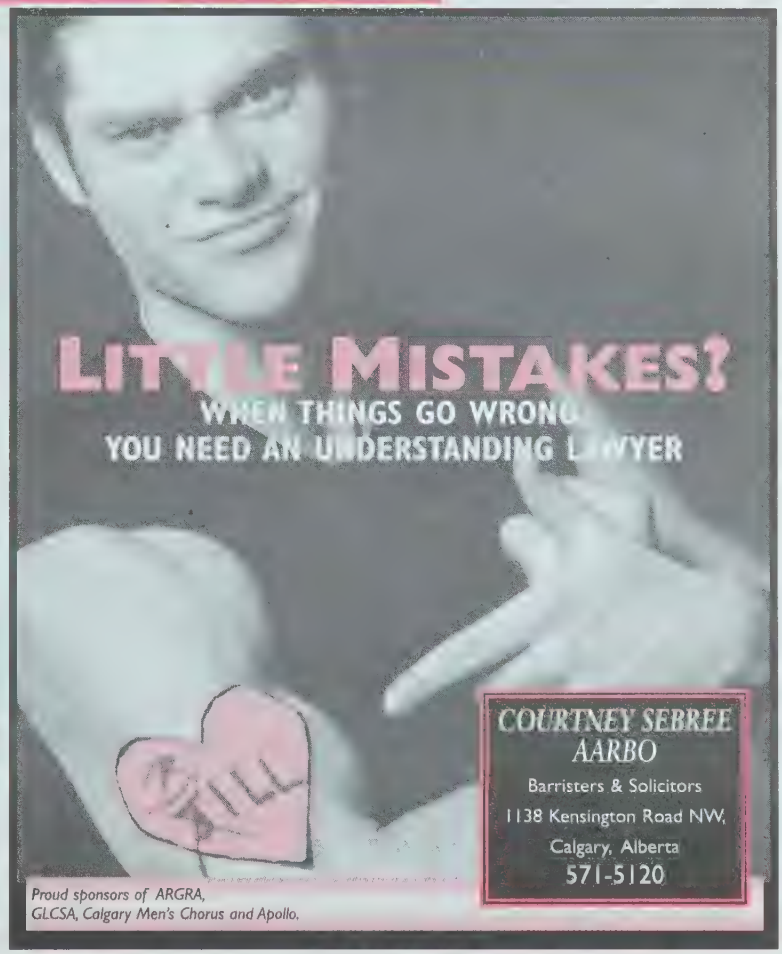
Planning an event in Winnipeg? Contact Brent at (204) 789-9215 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. All Photos By: Brent Y.

PrimeTimers'

UNION CENTRE

Man Eating Bear?
What—they didn't have a buffet?! Bob (bitee) sems to take it all in stride, as biter Carl pulls a 'Mike Tyson' on him.

Da Roof; Da Roof; Da Roof is... Awwww, Nevermind!
Thanks to Corey's moves in the line dancing formation, every one of Winnipeg's cabs turned up all at once to fetch him. well, maybe that ain't entirely true...



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FOCUS

Montreal-based photographer Wendy Stephens is known for her stark, alluring and oftentimes seductive images of women. Working mainly in black and white, Wendy captures the intimacy and trust of her subjects, and with that she creates an image that shows their true soul. She began her career in the arts and quickly settled on photography as her medium of choice and has never looked back.

"Photographing people gives me such pleasure it's hard to describe...every time I see the final image, the look in their eyes, the trust...it's so satisfying," she says of the work.

In her career she has touched various aspects of photography, including landscape, fashion, commercial and industrial, but for her nothing compares to editorial portraiture and art photography.

The "Dykes in their favorite hats...across Canada" series is her biggest undertaking yet. What began as a theme for a Montreal Gay Pride 2001 exhibit launched a three-week, cross-country road trip to Vancouver with her friend Laura and two years of compiling images that she hopes will eventually lead to having the series published as a book.

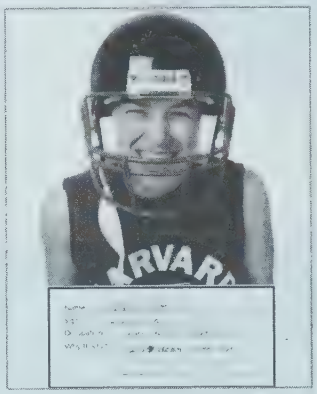
"Travelling to the West coast and meeting so many amazing women from all walks of life was exhilarating. It really opened our eyes to the political issues and cultural differences amongst Gays and Lesbians in Canada," Stephens says.

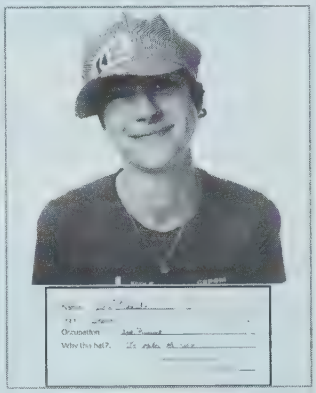
Creating "Dykes in their favorite hats...across Canada" is Wendy's way to show gay women in a positive, creative manner, to involve them in a project and to create a common tie between lesbians across this country.

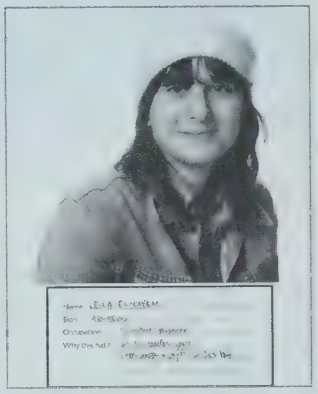
"I feel that as lesbians, we rarely get the recognition we deserve–and I hope that this series will prove that we are amazing, beautiful, intelligent women from all walks of life; Valuable members of society, important sisters, mothers, lovers, neighbours..."

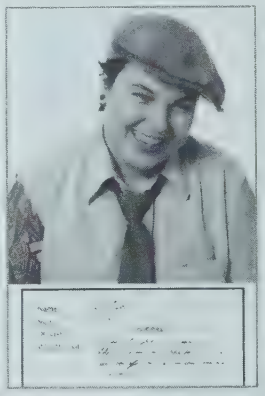
Wendy plans to travel to the East coast this coming summer to complete the series. To view the series and other works by Wendy Stephens please go to: WWW.ONYOURKNEESBOY.COM

"If you want to kiss the sky, better learn how to kneel...on your knees boy!" - Mysterious Ways, U2

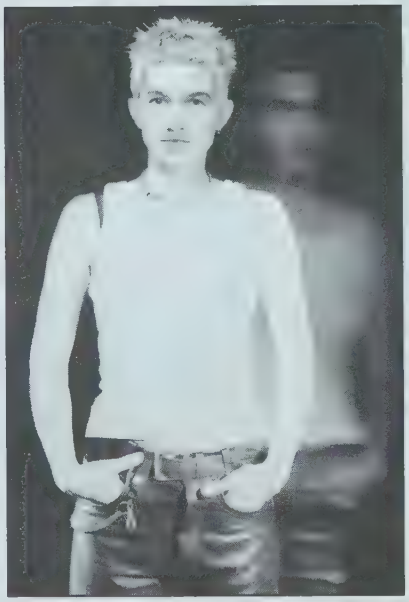


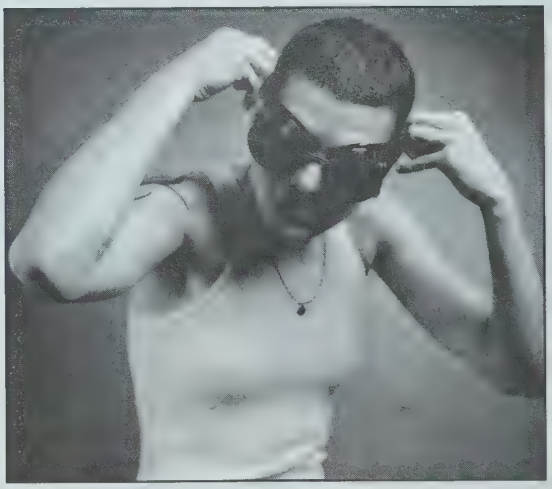






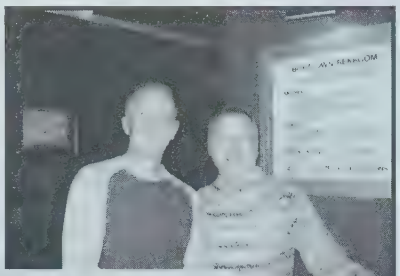
The work of Wendy Stephens: (clockwise from top left): "Argh!"; images from "Dykes In Their Favorite Hats... Across Canada" series; "Bug"; "Rebella"; "Gasmask"





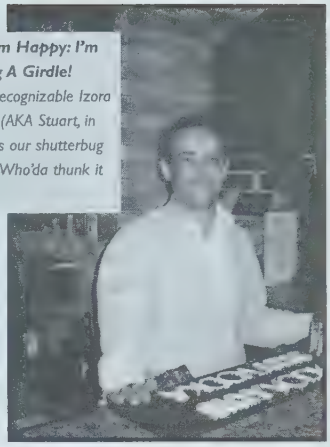
OUTLOOKS is proud to bring you this regular showcase of photographic talent in Canada's GLBT community. If you would like your work considered for this feature please submit samples to main@outlooks.ca

Anniversary Celebration
METRO/BOYZTOWN & THE REKROOM



Sunshine At Night
Co-owner Ken Annebo (AKA Flo Del Rocko, left) and Richard (AKA Lady B) flash their brightest smiles in honour of the occasion.

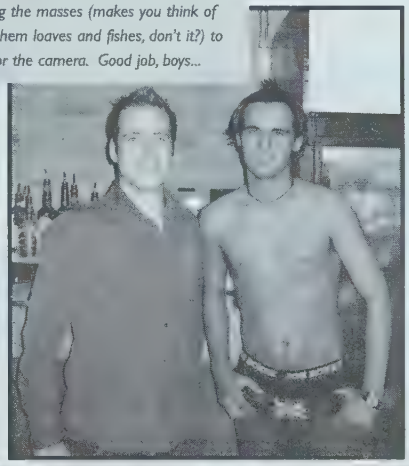
I've Got Your Back!
Bar Manager David Donald grabs Gary (AKA Zsa Zsa Del Rocko) for some lens-friendly lovin'



Of course I'm Happy: I'm Not Wearing A Girdle!
An almost unrecognizable Izora Jackson Jones (AKA Stuart, in this case) gives our shutterbug a manly grin. Who'da thunk it possible, girl?!

Pick Up Bar
Resident DJ Mystare (right) hoists a cool one—in this case Kid V—in between spinning the revellers into some well-earned hangovers!

(Not) Working It...
Bar babes Tyler (left) and Devin took time out from serving the masses (makes you think of Jesus with them loaves and fishes, don't it?) to look cute for the camera. Good job, boys...



Nyah-Nyah—We're Still In Love!
Mr. Brent Rock (left) and Mr. Devon Mills, arguably one of Cowtown's cutest couples, tucked in guests at the Foxwood B&B and headed out to share in Boyztown's celebration. Glad you could make it, kids...

OTTAWA

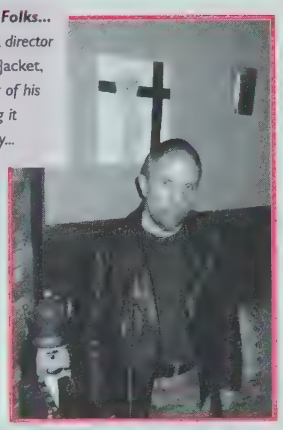
Divergence Party
SHANGHAI ON SOMERSET

Spin Doctors
DJ Booth (left) and Chameleonic seem to have the situation well in hand. Talk about the room spinning!

Double Happiness
Partygoers Niki (left) and Amanda, seemingly caught up in the festive spirit of the moment. Guess we can "blame" those two gents to the left...

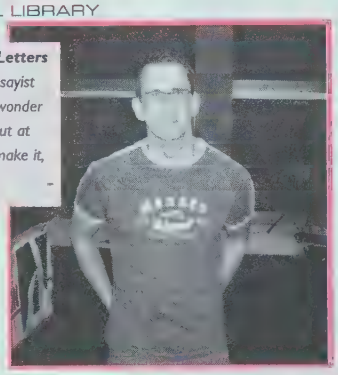
My Leather Jacket Screening
SWIZZLES

But Seriously Folks...
Alex Wisniowski, director of My Leather Jacket, at the screening of his film. Good thing it wasn't a comedy...

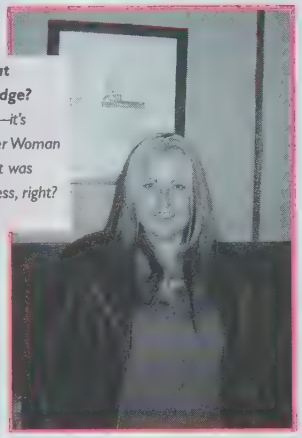


Literary Evening
NATIONAL LIBRARY

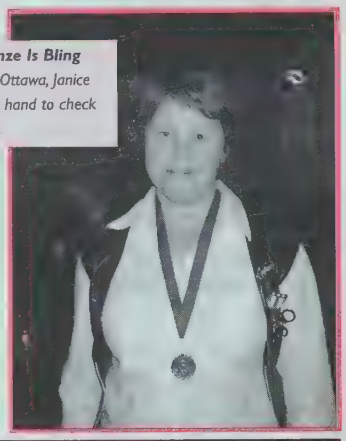
Man Of (Many) Letters
Playwright/novelist/essayist Darren Greer–it's a wonder he had time to get out at all. Glad you could make it, though, hon.



Hey—Isn't That Melissa Etheridge?
Nope, not quite—it's Canadian Leather Woman Jane Scmid. That was your second guess, right?



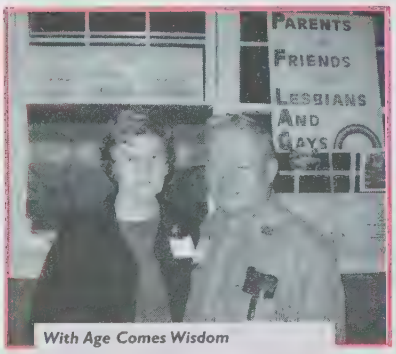
When Bronze Is Bling
Ms Leather Ottawa, Janice Michaud, on hand to check out the flick.



Two To Toast
Thanks to event coordinators David Rimmer (left) of After Stonewall bookstore, and Bill Staubi of the Lambda Foundation for Excellence, the evening was an unqualified successs

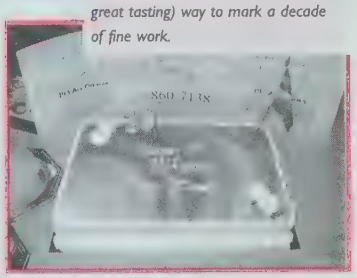
Recognize Me?
Flight of Aquavit *author Anthony Bidulka, at the official Canadian launch gig for his latest Russell Quant mystery.*

PFLAG 10th Anniversary
ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH



With Age Comes Wisdom
Two of the founding members of PFLAG Ottawa, Diane and Dennis Stimson. Diane's nametag read simply 'Mom'.

That Takes The Cake
Time flies when you're combatting discrimination—what a great (and great tasting) way to mark a decade of fine work.



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Gay Love Signs, Closets in your Chart
Stonewall horoscope
This site offers easy to order personal readings by Madam L.

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The Distress Centre:
(Blair Collins) (403) 266-1601 ext. 3006
Domestic Conflict Unit (Police):
(Christina Rivard) (403) 206-8338
Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse
(CCASA) (403) 237-5888
Shelter:
Wheatlands Community
Crisis Shelter (403) 934-6634
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OUTLOOKS

Inspiring initiatives

By Sheldon Cooke

If you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any of the multitude of secular or religious holidays over the winter months, you're probably swamped as it is, preparing for the season. In the midst of parties and presents, advertisements clamouring for your holiday dollars, and the general hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, it's easy to forget that this is a time of year for goodwill and charity. Two Calgarians haven't forgotten; in fact, year after year, these dedicated people go above and beyond to provide for those less fortunate.

Two annual charitable drives have been operating in Calgary over the past few years, and this year is no exception—both of these tireless individuals are preparing for what could be their busiest events to date.

Dr. Richard Denney has been operating the Toys for Tots drive for the past nine years. This has been a personal venture for him, his own way to give back to the community at large. "It is my Christmas before Christmas—it always brings great joy to my heart to see the amount toys my friends bring to the event," Denney says. "It is just heart warming."

After moving to Calgary from Vancouver, Dr. Denney was inspired to recreate an event he had participated in as part of a leather group in Toronto for many years. He has been doing charity events for years, and he loves giving back to the community. When asked what it means to him to be involved in such an undertaking, he replies, "It means giving to the community with all my heart."

With last year's donations exceeding $6,000 in toys (thirty-six bags worth!) and cash, Toys for Tots continues to be a success, bringing in much-needed gifts for those less fortunate. Toys for Tots donates the toys to the Native Women's Shelter, an organization that has been completely floored by the outpouring of charity from Dr. Denney's network of donors.

Richard Denney (right), pictured here with friend Jackat the 2002 Toys For Tots event.

"Last year they were in tears when we brought the toys in," says Denney, "They had never seen as many toys being donated to their location, ever."

His goal this year? To exceed last year's donations.

Denney has his own personal wish list of things he'd like to be able to contribute this year. Not only does he wish to donate more than he did last year, he is also hoping to give more than just toys this year. Cash donations allow the shelter to purchase turkeys and other holiday foodstuffs for their holiday celebrations—unless someone already has non-perishable food to donate, which is gladly accepted as well. He also hopes that there will be donations of gifts aimed at teenagers and adults, who are often left out of the loop when it comes to the gift donations.

Denney finds the best reward is seeing the faces of the people who receive the donations from Toys for Tots. "It is a totally a charitable donation that is given back to the community; I encourage all my friends to give a toy, and I am happy that I have so many charitable friends who donate," he says. Denney has found a very charitable friend in Lori Murphy, proprietor of Money-Pennies, who has hosted the event for him over the past four years, providing a venue, wine and food at no cost, for which Denney is very grateful.

The Toys for Tots event will be taking place again this year at Money-Pennies, on Sunday, December 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Donations of new unwrapped toys or gift items, non-perishable food items and cash will be accepted during this time.

When asked about his charitable work, Denney has a few words for everyone: "Reach out and touch somebody that is less fortunate than you in the community. There are lots of different donations to various organizations—you have to choose the one you believe in."

On another charitable front is Crowns for Kids. The remarkable Mz. Rhonda has been operating the project for eight years, and 2004 is shaping up to be as big a success as last year's event.

"Even though economists are saying that we're all doing better, I'm not seeing things change at all. I think there's a lot of struggling going on out there—with single moms and young families, in particular," says Mz. Rhonda (known by day as Ron Eberly).

The Crowns for Kids event is fashioned after a similar toy drive in San Diego. Established in 1996, thousands of toys have been given to many groups in the Calgary area, including the Children's Hospital, the Women's Shelter and the Children's Cottage.

Crowns For Kids creator Mz. Rhonda, with a hunky helper, as pictured on the cover of the December 2001 edition of Outlooks

As each year passes, Mz. Rhonda finds that, even though the need remains undiminished, the generosity of the community knows no bounds. "Eight years ago this was just a Court show with a couple of donation boxes in bars. Now we've gone from bars to businesses—like Priape, B&D Leather and Melrose on 17th Avenue—so it really has grown," she says. "The toys have changed over the years, too: we used to just get cuddly things for the little ones and now all age groups are being addressed."

Mz. Rhonda spends most of the holiday season promoting her cause by encouraging people to donate and by hosting shows that benefit Crowns for Kids. Her mission? "To place a crowning smile on the face of a child who is delighted by an unexpected gift."

"This is our eighth year and I feel really good about it; I always feel a little anxious until it gets going, but the posters are up and the flyers are printed," Mz. Rhonda comments, "We have a Web page this year and Gil Tucker from Global news is going to do a feature on me and the toy drive. He's going to follow me around while we drop off donation boxes around town."

This year, thanks in part to the generosity of donors in years past, there are plans to expand beyond toy donations. "We're working with the Back Door organization to help teens out, and goodie bags will be made up with items purchased with cash donations," she says. "We're working from a wish list they provided, and we're also going to put some chocolate in there, because everyone needs a little treat at Christmas."

Mz. Rhonda has been operating Crowns for Kids under the umbrella of the Imperial and Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch Social Association. However, with the continued success of her charity drive, there are definitely some growing pains that will need to be addressed.

"Even though I'm under the umbrella of the Court, I may have to apply for non-profit status myself, because people are writing cheques and I'm not in a position to give proper receipts," she says about the burgeoning success of the toy drive.

As well, as more and more people participate in Crowns for Kids, there's another worry: getting the toys where they need to be. With thousands of toys to deliver, taking a cab or transit isn't working anymore. "The toughest thing over the past eight years has been finding people to help deliver the toys, because my partner and I don't drive. I just need somebody with a truck on the Monday—the 20th of December—because I'd like to get everything out all at once. Otherwise, we wind up taking cabs and that gets expensive."

Mz. Rhonda will be out in full force in the month of December, and encourages anyone to help in any way they can. If you are interested in having a donation collection box, or volunteering to assist with the transport, you can contact her at 283-8815 or via email to roneberly@shaw.ca. You can also view the Crowns for Kids website at http://crowns-forkids.tripod.com. ▼

Sheldon Cooke has been writing about the Internet for gay and lesbian publications for over two years. You can find him online at www.homotextual.org.

Viva Vardalos!

By Robert Kaiser

Although she lays claim to a strong dislike for labels, writer/actress Nia Vardalos would likely not shy away from one designation: friend of the gay and lesbian community. Refreshingly open and—well, very *Canadian*, this transplanted Winnipegger has resisted the Tinseltown temptation to have all her thoughts and words run through the filter of a Hollywood publicist. Here, in an exclusive interview with *Outlooks*, she takes time to shares some of those thoughts in an informal telephone chat with her *Connie & Carla* co-star Robert Kaiser, better known to Vancouverites as drag diva Joan-E.

: Your life changed so much after *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*; are there places you can't go and things you can't do now?

Vardalos: There are things that are more difficult—I have to negotiate my way through, say, Greektown in Chicago wearing a hat and glasses... and a prosthetic nose! [Laughs] But I don't really believe in being held hostage by celebrity, so I tend to do exactly the same things every day and just try to live a normal life. I truly believe that you have to *live* life to *write* life—and if I become Nia "Private Jet" Vardalos then I become the kind of person I used to make fun of.

Outlooks: I think to some extent the media has downplayed your early work in order to make you look like an overnight success. You worked really hard, didn't you?

Vardalos: Well, I always say coal miners work hard—I was toting flats around during summer stock and painting scenery and understudying the lead in a musical theatre piece. It was out of pure desire—following my dream. The truth of the matter is that I *did* work for fifteen years in theatre, and I made a living doing it. And when I wasn't doing that I was catering, waitering, doing floral design—all the things that we do to stay in [the business]. When people go "Oh my God, you were just sitting in the drugstore and Tom Hanks found you," I have to go "Uh... okay!" People forget that I had the [My Big Fat Greek Wedding] screenplay written when Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson came to the show. And that I had done fifteen years of stage work when they came to the show. That doesn't legitimize me or make me a more credible person than the one who was 'found in the drugstore', but I think all of that experience made me more capable of dealing with becoming an instantly known person.

Outlooks: You got to live as a drag queen for a few months; what did you take away from that experience?

Vardalos: An overall and profound respect for drag queens—because it is difficult to *stand* in a corset, let alone *dance*! Society makes women dress up—look at the Emmys, and the men versus the women; the men were *infinitely* more comfortable. And to play the game we have to show our boobs and put on high-heeled shoes. I am so in awe of drag queens because what they do is by choice; you choose to showcase how you feel inside by putting on some fabulousness outside. It is a difficult thing to do: a costly, time-consuming process.

Outlooks: I sometimes am asked to speak on behalf of the GLBT community; do you get asked to speak on behalf of the Greek community now, or speak "as a Canadian"?

Vardalos: Yes. It's interesting because I've always been somebody who tries to avoid labels and I try not to pay attention to things like age, weight, breast size, hair colour. And yet, I'm so labelled by the media as a Canadian, as a woman, as a Greek; you know, it's like: "As someone who has written a movie with a gay theme, what is *your* comment?" There is nothing more invalidating, I think, than a label. So I just try to speak as myself.

Outlooks: Your home province of Manitoba recently passed gay marriage, and you have a cousin who was quite involved with that.

Vardalos: I do. Being a person with twenty-seven first cousins and then an extended family of *hundreds* of Greeks, I think I am part of a cross-section of North America: we have doctors, lawyers, interior designers, housewives, househusbands, actresses—we truly are a cross-section. Some of us are married, some of us are single, some of us are gay, some of us are straight. When one of my friends jumped out of the closet at seventeen our family door was not closed to them. I saw how my parents reacted to a world that I was already comfortable in, and I was so heartened by it, by being raised in such a tolerant family. It was a lot easier for my cousin to come out of the closet—maybe a little bit easier than the family I portrayed in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*!

Outlooks: When we were filming *Connie & Carla*, I was amazed at how comfortable your parents were—for example, with the drag queens on set.

Vardalos: Yes, definitely. My parents are very much into "To each his own". They are very much into being part of a tolerant, accepting society. That's the way I was raised. I always say if my dad, from a village in Greece, can walk onto the set of *Connie & Carla* and put his arms around the drag queens and say "Oh, boy, you look good!", then why can't the world?

Nia Vardalos with Connie & Carla prep costumer Kurtis Reeves, in Vancouver

Outlooks: Tell me a bit about the letter you wrote for the rally in Winnipeg.

Vardalos: Well, my cousin Stefphanie Cholakis found either my phone number or my e-mail address—she's a distant cousin but with Greeks that doesn't matter, we're all cousins—and she contacted me and said "We have this issue happening in Manitoba; will you support it?" And I was, like, "*Yeah!*" This was about a year-and-a-half, maybe two years ago, and so I wrote a letter and she read it out at the rally. I do what I can—I really don't know if it had any might or merit or anything. But I feel that I am one voice and so are you—and so is the person reading this and so is their mother and so on and so on. I did what I wanted to do, which was to speak out before it became a horrible, *horrible* situation. I truly believe it is disgusting to deny *any* citizen of this earth equal rights. And I'm so tired of things being done in the name of "preserving family values" or in the name of "preserving marriage"; I find that cowardly, hollow and it has no credibility in this day and age.

Outlooks: Unfortunately, it seems most messages of intolerance hit us "where we live": in our churches, our homes, our schools...

Vardalos: The human race has killed a lot of people in the name of "God". Not *my* God: my God is benevolent, very handsome and truly believes in *everything* for *everyone*.

Outlooks: What's next for Nia?

Vardalos: Well, a couple of romantic comedies—one that I wrote, one that I didn't—and I think I'm going to South Africa to do a film. The dates keep changing and the more they change them the more it runs into pre-production on another project, so I guess I have to say that it's still up in the air. I'm going to record an album of a Broadway musical, which will be super-fun! You know, every day offers come in and I have to say 'no' to ninety percent of them because they're just not my style. I don't want to disparage anyone's script or anybody's project, but I just tend to do things that speak to my "core". If I read a script and I'm excited about what's going to happen to the characters, then I want to do it. But most scripts I'm reading are dirty beyond belief and I just find that 'easy' and not interesting for me. Or they want me naked and I just find that easy and not interesting for others, so I have to say no! Mostly what I do is I read scripts, I say no and I wait for the right project to come along.

Outlooks: It seems, more so now than ever, that people are being held up as celebrities despite having no talent. It seems that they are noteworthy only for—

Vardalos: Being the meanest person on an island!

Outlooks: Yes, exactly. And I see so many people with so much talent that don't seem to be able to get anywhere. What is your advice for someone who has talent and passion and wants to entertain?

Vardalos: There are only so many ways to reinvent the wheel, so let's just say that *their* way hasn't been invented *yet*. I would advise them to go do what makes them happy. When I wrote *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* there was no way in a million years I could have imagined what would happen to it. All I was trying to do was feel creative and be less invisible in a city that was telling me to shut up and go home. So, in terms of advice, I would say stop listening to *that* voice and listen to the voice *inside* you. This is going to sound hokey in print but I really, truly believe if there's anything else that you could do and still be happy, *go do it*. But if you must act, then act, darling, *act*!

Robert Kaiser is a Vancouver-based performer and commentator on GLBT issues. He was recently awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his tireless efforts in supporting AIDS and AIDS-related charities.

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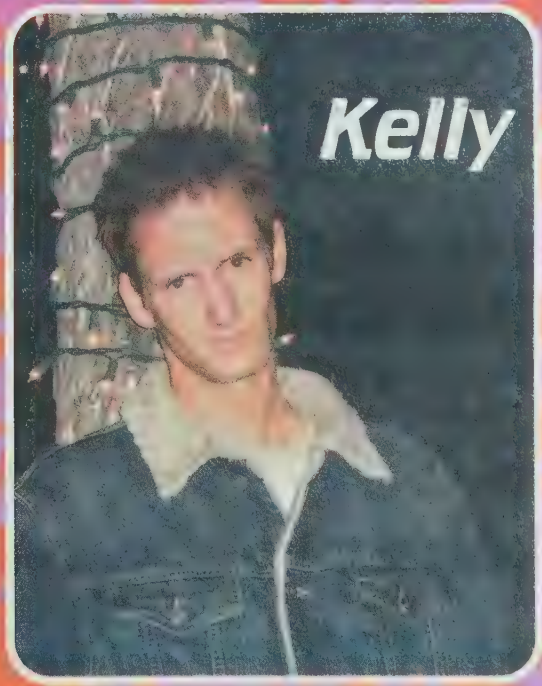
DON'T YOU WISH?

Despite the harsh prairie winters, this twenty-three-year-old student enjoys keeping active outside. When he's not busy with school, Kelly likes going to movies, listening to music and hanging out with friends



Shot on location at Calgary's Olympic Plaza by Outlooks staff

Holiday Cheerword

Clues & words by *Outlooks* staff
answers on page 37

Across

1) Clear tonic mate or *Dear Mr. Klein's* Steve
2) Author of *Magical Thinking, Running with Scissors* and *Dry*
5) Colour promoted by writer Damian Kington
6) Newly crowned Ms Club 200: Willyssa ____
10) Name of couple who helped found PFLAG Ottawa
11) Nia Vardalos' lesbian cousin: Stefphanie _____
12) Viacom's soon-to-be-launched GLBT channel in U.S.
13) Family name of Vancouver's Prairie Fairie Fowl Dinner
19) Nia Vardalos-penned drag movie: *Connie &* _____
22) The "slutty one" on *Sex and the City*
23) Type of jungle cat or high-end vehicle
25) Ms Leather Ottawa titleholder: Janice _____
26) Recently launched advice book: *Ask Dr.* _____
28) Venue for 2004 Small Change... Big Changes
30) Destination of the Chelsea Boys Gang
31) U2 is featured on this type of music player
32) Main planet affecting things in December

Down

1) Website for matching gay Canadians with American "refugees"
2) Author of *Flight of Aquavit*: Anthony ____
3) Name of emerging PrideVision TV porn channel
4) MP who tabled exclusive marriage definition
7) Kosmetikos fundraiser in Calgary: Seed ____
8) Name of winning RSVP story
9) Model name of interesting Crate and Barrel martini glass
14) Name of RSVP's winning writer
15) Hand preference or concept at core of Coulbourn column
16) Colin Farrell stars as this supposedly bisexual warrior
17) 63% of *Outlooks* readers live in this type of setting
18) Type of players in Gay.com ad
20) santa's reindeer with the "gayest" name
21) Founder of Crowns for Kids campaign: Mz. _____
24) An "evil" name if you rearrange "Santa"
27) Wendy Stephens series: "Dykes In Their Favorite _____"
29) Dr. Denney's holiday charity initiative: Toys for _____

Changing channels

By Outlooks Staff

After some four years of existing "outside the box" (to quote their own slogan), PrideVision is finally making a move *inside*—specifically to the much-coveted realm of consumer-bundle subscription TV. When it launched in September of 2001, the world's first GLBT television network was designated a "stand-alone" digital channel due to the adult nature of some of its programming. When Bill Craig purchased PrideVision's Canadian operation from founder John Levy this past year, he vowed that changes would be made under his direction, changes that would make the network more accessible and, ultimately, more financially viable. Now, thanks to some skillful negotiating on Craig's part, a version of PrideVision TV will be available as part of a multi-channel package, making it easier than ever for digital cable users to get their gay "fix".

Prior to this development, PVTV was only available as a separate cable entity, and was billed out at much higher rates (up to four times the cost) of regular digital channels. In the early years of digital cable, this added expense was detrimental to the network's ability to develop itself further, as new show acquisitions and original programming ventures were limited by the amount of subscriber revenue coming into the network. Being designated as a "stand-alone" likely also caused problems with closeted viewers who might have wanted to subscribe but felt they could not do so discreetly. On October 27, the network announced that changes were in the wind—or perhaps more accurately, on the airwaves. Up until this point, the network had both wielded and fallen victim to a double-edged sword, mainly late-night pornography that proved popular with subscribers but prevented PrideVision from reaching a wider audience due to broadcast restrictions on adult programming. The answer? Forge two new swords to replace the bane/boon of the double edge.

According to the network, if all goes according to plan, Glow TV, an updated and more accessible 24/7 GLBT channel will be available as part of a Category 1 digital "bundle" as early as January of 2005. This revised "mainstream" channel will focus on the stock and trade of the network's previously mandated programming: gay-themed and British sitcoms; documentaries, movies and concert specials of interest to the GLBT community; and a handful of original shows that fell by the wayside as money became scarce in the channel's formative years. Indications are that some of those projects wil be revisited

"We're definitely bringing the Dr. Keith show back, and I think it's going to be one of the most important shows on our network, " says Jason Hughes, the network's director of sales and marketing. "To have a sex-health-relationship advice show for the community is great, and Dr. Keith is very well educated, a member of the community and a really great guy. We're also hoping to bring back *Jawbreaker* with Brad Fraser, as well as *Read Out*."

A recent PrideVision media release announced that program acquisitions would "increase ten-fold" in order to provide even more content for both longstanding and new viewers. Hughes also acknowledges that a national daily call-in show is high on the list of priorities for new Glow TV projects.

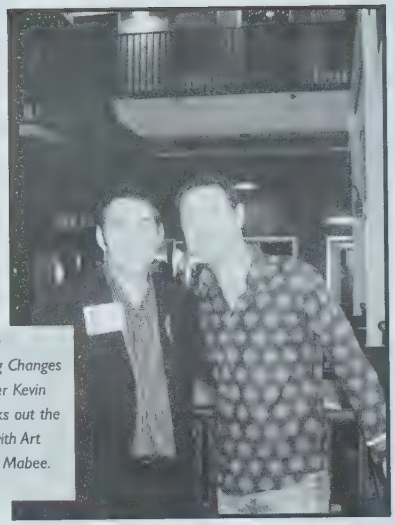
For those who preferred their PrideVision with a little more "edge", the other entity that splintered off in the reconfiguration will likely provide what they are looking for. According to Neilsen Media Research statistics, ninety percent of PVTV subscribers regularly tuned in to watch the network's adult-oriented programming, and the reconfigured PrideVision will reflect this preference. Billed as a "gay premium adult service", HARD on PrideVision TV (a mouthful, but an appropriate name, to be sure) will focus on racier content—or what's generally known as porn, to put it bluntly.

"We've increased the erotica from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on PrideVision TV, which will eventually evolve into HARD TV," says Hughes. "This allows us to take the hardcore content off the Category 1 channel—Glow TV—which will not have that type of content on it. What we're doing is responding to viewers—and even people in the community who have not subscribed to PrideVision in the past—who were disappointed that there had to be hardcore erotica on the world's first GLBT station."

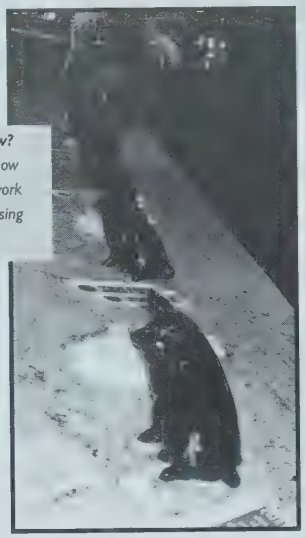
This development may or may not come as good news for those who used to use "PrideVision the all-encompassing" to get their share of naked hi-jinks: HARD is being marketed as a stand-alone channel, and its name leaves little doubt as to what the nature of its programming is. Then again, for those who cannot bring themselves to conduct a face-to-face transaction in an adult video store, this one-step-removed option may be just the thing they're looking for. As of press time, the network was still gradually increasing the ratio of adult content on PrideVision, with an eye on making hardcore programming a 24/7 prospect on HARD in the not-so-distant future. Once this has been accomplished, only time—and dollar figures generated by HARD subscribers—will truly tell.

Though many still question the viability of an all-gay television network (particularly given the shaky nature of PrideVision's first few years), the fact remains that a 24/7 GLBT channel still managed to enjoy three years on the air and is looking forward to a brighter future. This is in sharp contrast to the situation stateside, where Q Television network and where! TV both broadcast in limited markets, and media giant Viacom's Logo still has not been launched. It also goes without saying that the current sociopolitical climate south of the 49th parallel does not bode well for the success of these decidedly "non-family values" ventures. Nonetheless, with PrideVision USA still under the aegis of his Headline Media Group, original owner John Levy is poised to move into a market that could conceivably deliver ten times the viewer demographic that Canada could ever hope for. "In Canada, there are about 2.3 million digital boxes; in the U.S. there are between thirty and thirty-five million," Levy told *Outlooks* in April of 2002, a figure that has doubtless increased in the past two years. "In terms of the gay community we're looking at about 13- to 14-million gay households, so it's a huge market that's totally been ignored." As of press time, no firm plans had been established for a specific launch date of PrideVision USA, so it looks like the only thing left to do is literally watch and see...

Small Change... Big Changes
Launch Party
ART CENTRAL



The Place To Be
Small Change... Big Changes committee member Kevin Spragg (left) checks out the event's new digs with Art Central's own Rob Mabee.



All Their Ducks In A Row?
Well, not quite—but somehow this species just seems to work better when it comes to raising funds.

Happy as Pigs In... A Fundraiser Venue?
Small Change... Big Changes' Chair Wade Cuthbertson and volunteer Nan Myers all set to roll on another year of 'piggy banking'.

Small Change... Big Changes
Coin Collecting Gala
ART CENTRAL

Buckaroo Bucks
Small Change Chair Wade Cuthbertson accepts a $4,000 donation to the cause from ARGRA, presented here by Judy Munson.

Rob Murray
403.253.5678

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say Thank You and to wish you the very best for the New Year.

www.buysmart-sellsmart.com

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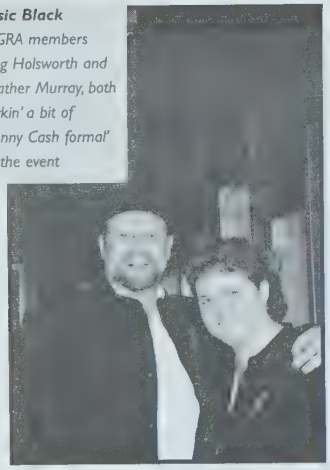


Basic Black
ARGRA members Greg Holsworth and Heather Murray, both workin' a bit of 'Johnny Cash formal' for the event

Where Was This Held, Olympus?!
Design god Paul Lavoie (left) with hair god and pal David Stewart. Is that thunder I hear or drum 'n' bass?

Pearly Whites Before Swine
A good time was had by all, committee and non-committee members alike! Pictured here are Co-Founder Sherry MacRae, event Chair Wade Cuthbertson, past board member and Outlooks copy editor Michael Wright and Guy Milner, of the Southern Alberta Clinic.

PUMPJACK VANCOUVER

OUTLOOKS present

XTRA! west

homos a-carolin' at sea

2nd Annual Gay Holiday Dinner Cruise
Monday, December 13, '04

Free shuttle bus from The PumpJack Pub 5:30 to 6:30 Cruise departs 6:45 pm from Harbour Cruises (foot of Denman) aboard the MV Princess
$30 per ticket. Full Buffet Dinner included.
Caroling by Rainy City Gay Mens Chorus
Proceeds to benefit Dr. Peter Centre
Limited tickets available at the PumpJack Pub
1167 Davie Street www.pumpjackpub.com

Dr. Peter Centre

Labatt POLAR ICE VODKA pur source QUICK RAINY CITY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Vancouver Pulse

By Outlooks Staff

Ho-Ho-Homos What better way is there to celebrate the season than jumping on a boat with a load of your dearest 'n'queerest? Back for another triumphant tour on the waves, Homos-a-Carolin' at Sea is a must for all those who need to boost their festive spirit. This dinner cruise commences at 6:45 p.m. aboard the MV Princess, which sets sail from Harbour Cruises at the foot of Denman. A shuttle bus from PumpJack will be available from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Carols will be provided by the Rainy City Gay Men's Chorus and proceeds will go to benefit the Dr. Peter Centre. For more info, visit **www.pumpjackpub.com**

3-D! Drag, Dish and December are buzzwords you'll want to remember this month as the legendary Willie Taylor puts her own special spin on the festive season with a holiday show like no other. Join Willie December 19 at the Oasis Pub for yet another installment of "Live with Willie Taylor", an evening of gossip and grooving. Everyone knows the girl's got more balls than a shopping mall Christmas tree, so get down there early in order to get a good seat. The Oasis will also be serving their Sunday Dinner Special Prime Rib—a steal at only $16.95, complete with la Taylor's side "dish". For more information on this holiday glamourama, ring the Oasis at (604) 685-1724

Box What?! If sales don't float your boat on Boxing Day—or you just need a pick-me-up after frenzied shopping, then don't miss a special holiday installment of Hershe Bar on Sunday, December 26 from 9 p.m. through 2 a.m. DJ Tracey D will be laying the foundation for festive fabulousness, filling Celebrities (1022 Davie) with sexy new tribal beats. Tix are $8 advance and $10 at the door, and can be had through Little Sister's, Tech Direct PC (888 Commercial street) or online at **www.flygirlproductions.com**.

Look—A Pianist Is the dentist the only one you're seeing tickling the ivories lately? Then haul yourself down to the Oasis for some fab piano entertainmment throughout the month of December. Perry Dickison pulls up the bench from December 3 to 4, Bryant Olender works his magic December 8 to 11, Perry takes over from the 15th to the 18th and Nancy Ruth wraps up the month on the 22nd and 23rd. For more on the lineup of performers or the venue itself, visit **www.theoasispub.com**

Face This! The Dr. Peter Centre will be the recipient of proceeds from a unique mask exhibit currently on display at Sugar Daddy's (1260 Davie St.). Artist Douglas McClean, with the generous assistance of Interactive Male, has created a series of masks inspired by the host countries of the TV phenomenon *Survivor*. Each week a new mask or two will be added to the collection, with the full display being auctioned off one piece at a time during the final evening of *Survivor Vanuatu*. For more information on this event or the masks themselves, contact Sugar Daddy's at (604) 632-1646

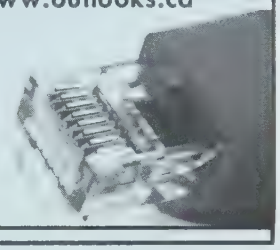
Present-ing Looking for just the right gift for that special (or not-so) someone? Mark the weekend of December 18th and 19th off on your calendar and head down to the 11th Annual Women's Winter Arts & Crafts Faire, which runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days at Heritage Hall (3102 Main St.). Admission to this extravaganza of one-of-a-kind gifts is by donation, with partial proceeds going to benefit Team Vancouver. For more information, call (604) 253-7189 or take a cyber-trip to **www.soundandfuries.com/faire.html**

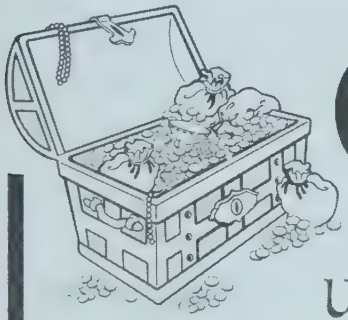
Forget The Bangles What—a Manic Monday that really is entertaining and enjoyable?! Absolutely. Be sure to check out the Pink Vixen Comedy Arts troupe's '80s parodies every Monday right through December 13th. The fun (a steal at only $10 admission) starts at 8 p.m. at the Buffalo club (1161 Granville St.) For more info on the PV's hijinks, log onto **www.pinkvixencomedyarts.com**

Peek-a-boo We know the suspense has been killing you, so you'l be glad to know that the wait is over. Be at The Odyssey Friday, December 17th for the unveiling of their 2005 calendar. The anticipation has been building for almost a month, and your own calendar is probably a *mess* of black X's by now, so this is the perfect opportunity to check out the men's 'ware' and get a little somethin'-somethin' to hang on your wall. More info available online: **www.theodysseynightclub.com**

To have your community event listed in Pulse, please submit your information by the 15th of the month prior to issue date. E-mail: main@outlooks.ca. Toll-free fax: 1-877-885-6657.

Plug in.
www.outlooks.ca





Community Chest

Upcoming Events:

December 3
Justin Stiches will be selling personalized monogrammed Santa hats on Granville Island, with five dollars of every purchase going to A Loving Spoonful

December 12
The Dogwood Monarchist Society, with the help of some big-hearted hunks, will present the 10th annual Strip-a-thon from 7-10 p.m. at the Odyssey

December 13
Don't miss PumpJack's second annual Homos-a-Carolin' at Sea dinner cruise, with proceeds going to benefit the Dr. Peter Centre. See the advertisement at left for details, or log on to **www.pumpjackpub.com**

Monies Raised Last Month:

* The Vancouver Pride Society donated the following amounts at their Annual General Meeting: AIDS Vancouver—$2,000; Dr. Peter Centre—$2,000; A Loving Spoonful—$1,000; BCPWA—$1,000
* Fillmore Family Prairie Fairie Fowl Dinner raised $20,000 for charity
* PumpJack's November coat check donated approximately $1,000 to the Rainy City Gay Men's Chorus
* The BoysCo 20th anniversary party raised $3,522 for A Loving Spoonful
* The Robson Safeway employee fundraiser generated $7,563 for A Loving Spoonful

Thanks to the Vancouver Community for your support!

To pre-promote your fundraiser or report on monies raised in the next issue of *Outlooks Vancouver* email: main@outlooks.ca or fax info toll free to 1-877-885-6657

This Monthly Community Feature Brought to you by:

PUMPJACK VANCOUVER

GLBT 24/7

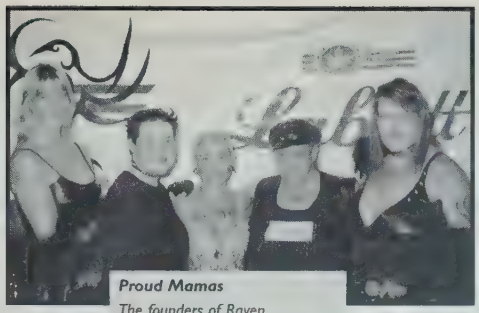
BRING YOUR PRIDE HOME

PRIDEVISION TV
OUTSIDE THE BOX

CALL YOUR LOCAL CABLE/SATELLITE PROVIDER TODAY AND SUBSCRIBE
1-877-PRIDE TV www.pridevisiontv.com

Prairie Fairie Fowl Dinner
ROUNDHOUSE

Hi, Hon—Did You Bring A Casserole?
Doreen and Linda, the Fillmore Sisters, looking radiant in matching floral print. This year's event sold out in just six days and raised $20,000 for charity.



Proud Mamas
The founders of Raven, assembled for the launch at Numbers' Leather Loft.

Have You Been Sampling Your Wares?
An obviously keyed-up crew from Starbuck's... did you want milk, sugar or Halcyon with that?

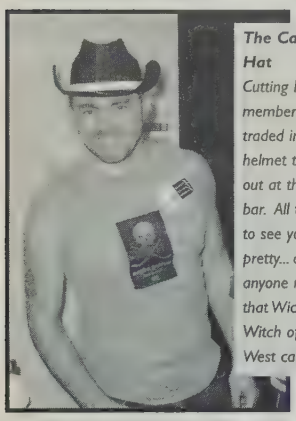
Raven Launch
NUMBERS

Shirts Vs. Skins?
On Hand to celebrate the birth of the Raven group were (from left) Pat, Lawrence, Anna, Peter and Dave

Maybe We Should Add Black To The Rainbow, Too!
A bevy (and then some) of sleekly attired leather enthusiasts at the Numbers launch.

Furrball Underwear Party
NUMBERS

Spongebob Bear Pants?
Mr. Grizzly, David, demonstrates that Hollywood knows no shame when it comes to product placement!



The Cat In The Hat
Cutting Edges member Chris traded in his helmet to help out at the wine bar. All the better to see you, my pretty... can anyone make that Wicked Witch of the West cackle?

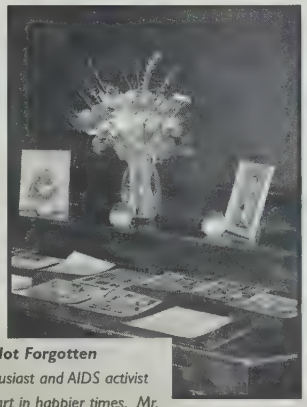
Ummm, Yeah... Do You Have Anything Other Than Rye?
Pumpjack manager Randy Newburg chats up Linda Fillmore as she table-hops.

They Said I Could Check My Bag... Oh, Wait—That Might Be Going Too Far!
Gar rids himself of troublesome and restricting garments at the coat—er, clothes—check.

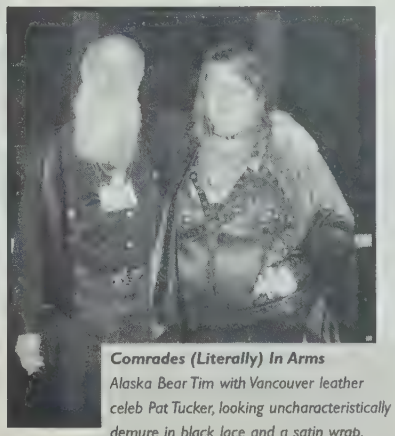
Furrball Main Event
HOLIDAY INN

And You Thought Only Drag Queens Could Do "Festive"!
Lance and outgoing Cub Stevie, at the Furrball party.

Michael Linhart Memorial
PUMPJACK



Gone But Not Forgotten
Uniform enthusiast and AIDS activist Michael Linhart in happier times. Mr. Linhart passed away while attending an AIDS conference in Ottawa.



Comrades (Literally) In Arms
Alaska Bear Tim with Vancouver leather celeb Pat Tucker, looking uncharacteristically demure in black lace and a satin wrap.

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
Photos By: Barry Piersdorff

Santa take note...

By Josh Murray

With all due respect to Andy Williams, this is the most *stressful* time of the year. Many shoppers, harried by time constraints and demanding schedules, will again find that holiday wish lists are not full of hopeful hints; instead, they are taxing challenges topping off an already hectic time. This season, though, a number of simple solutions can save time and conserve energy—by shopping around for a few of these holiday gems, you'll likely have a little more room in your schedule to enjoy another cup of eggnog near the fireplace.

Just in time for Christmas (etc.) 2005, the world's most popular digital music player has teamed up with arguably the world's greatest rock band to unleash a whole new iPod on the world. The success of Apple's music player in Canada has been unprecedented, aided in large part by American influence and those catchy television commercials. First there was the original, then the Mini and now comes the U2 iPod. The new model features a sleek black design and a case engraved with the signatures of all four members of the Grammy Award-winning Irish rock band. Despite all that, perhaps the greatest two features are the player's stylish red dial and the fact it comes pre-loaded with U2's buzz-worthy new album *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb*. The price tag is not cheap: this new version retails for CDN$499 but it is capable of storing up to 5,000 tracks! The 20GB player is unmistakably stylish and, like all iPods, incredibly light.

Best of all, iTunes itself will soon be making its debut in our Great White North. While our American neighbours have been able to purchase tracks and utilize the full breadth of services from Apple's tremendously popular music site, Canadian residents have been downloading songs from our nation's counterpart, Puretracks, and other sources. iTunes offers a much larger library, although Puretracks warns that the overall quality of recordings may not be of the same calibre as their own offerings. Decide for yourself. While Apple has not yet released an official confirmation, the music industry estimates the curtain will rise on a Canadian-friendly iTunes store anytime between now and February of 2005.

If you can't wait until the Spring to expand your music collection, try logging onto **www.amazon.co.uk**. The British site currently lists the latest offering from rock 'n' soul legend Tina Turner. Her newest album, entitled *All the Best*, is truly that: a collection of all of her best recordings. Turner is one of those rare talents that, while popular with ardent fans, has been overwhelmingly dismissed by the North American music industry for a lack of relevance in today's marketplace. In other words, she's too old to sell as many discs as Britney Spears. Fortunately for Turner's career (and our own musical enjoyment), she is still as popular as ever in Europe. In fact, *All the Best* debuted at number six on the English album charts in November, bringing with it a collection of the rock and roll hall of famer's greatest chart hits from her five decades of recordings.

The Phil Spector-epic River Deep, Mountain High is represented, as are hits from the 1970s (like the autobiographical Nutbush City Limits). As with her previous greatest hits CD, 1992's *Simply the Best*, there is a heavy emphasis on Turner's mid-'80s resurgence with tracks like the Grammy-winning What's Love Got To Do With It? and the melodramatic We Don't Need Another Hero. What's new to this collection, though, are much more recent recordings like the dance smash When the Heartache Is Over. Turner also provides fans with three brand new tracks, including the album's first single Open Arms.

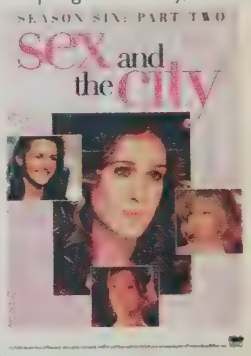
There are a few missteps. The album ignores the fiery recordings of the Ike and Tina days and spends time on weak, recent material like 1996's Something Beautiful Remains. In the end, though, it's a solid collection from the greatest female rock and roll singer of her generation.

If musical offerings take a back seat to literary pursuits in your household, the always-cynical and often brilliant musings of writer Augusten Burroughs are down on paper again in the witty collection *Magical Thinking*. Burroughs, a gay New Yorker who fled the confines of the advertising industry to pursue his creative interests, holds impressive control over readers. His memoirs are always engrossing and full of quirky, effective observations; *Running with Scissors* told of his odd childhood, while *Dry* showcased his descent into and eventual recovery from alcoholism and drug abuse.

With *Magical Thinking*, his thoughts truly run the gamut. The book is a collection of essays about unique aspects of his modern day life, and his insightful and hilarious stories touch on everything from the desperation of substance abuse to the contentment of co-habitation. One particular chapter raises eyebrows while still eliciting laughter by recounting the graphic details of three sexual encounters with Catholic priests.

Burroughs continues to gain rave reviews from critics and fans alike. His work appears regularly in *Details* and reviewers have been more than kind to this third memoir. In a review of *Magical Thinking*, *USA Today* called him "one of the most compelling and screamingly funny voices of the new century". For those interested, *Magical Thinking* is listed at a very reasonable CDN$33.95 for the hardcover edition. The paperback is yet to be released.

For fans of HBO's *Sex and the City*, the wait is finally over. As many know, after six acclaimed years on the air, the series finally called it quits this spring. Thankfully, HBO often makes sure its programming is available to "treasure" and the final season of the racy comedy is no exception to that rule. If there's one thing a regular TV network is good at, it's beating a dead horse; HBO, on the other hand, somehow knows when to wrap it up. For every *Roseanne* that flounders in the final years, there's a *Sex and the City* that goes out with a triumphant bang—in every sense of the word! The second part of the final season will be released on DVD this month and promises to come loaded with surprises. As any fan would expect, the disc features the final eight episodes which cover Carrie's romantic triumph, Charlotte's child-bearing challenges, Miranda's homemaking woes and Samantha's dramatic battle with breast cancer. However, the special features are what truly make the disc shine. Three alternate endings—filmed to ensure insiders didn't leak the final scenes—make their appearance on this disc, as do deleted moments from the show's full six-season run and two farewell tributes that preceded the finale on both its American and Canadian broadcasts. The show strives, and succeeds, at mixing its sophisticated comedy with mature drama, ensuring that Carrie's final walk



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FOR SALE

MUST BE SEEN!
2000 VW Beetle in excellent condition—only 84K km. on this 2lt. automatic. This fully loaded model features power windows and mirrors, sunroof, CD changer, seat warmers, cloth upholstery & A/C. Asking $16,495—or assume the lease for only $390 per month! Call Roy at (403) 818-7265

from previous will go down in history as one of the better television finales of all time. The show's final moments lacked nothing—except maybe a great Cosmo.

Crate and Barrel—the American housewares store often touted as retail heaven by Oprah Winfrey—can provide the perfect glass for that great Cosmo: the Clio. This staple in the store's bar collection retails for USD$9.95, and the two-piece set includes a stemless martini glass on a rounded base that keeps everything in place. Imagine an orb full of ice into which you can gently place your cold cocktail. The base can be filled with chipped ice for just this purpose. Innovative fans will also utilize the Clio as a serving dish for other items including sauces or dips. Shrimp cocktail works particularly well, given the shape and size of the glass.

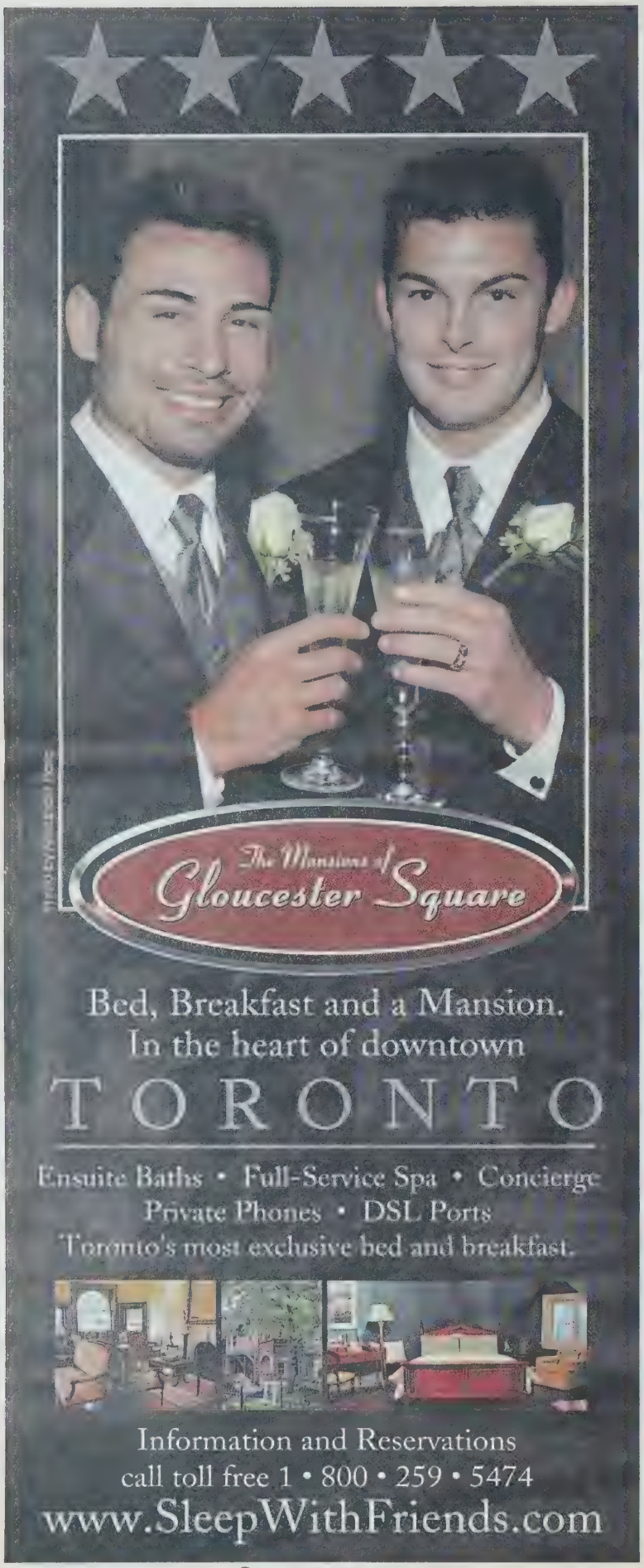
Crate and Barrel ships to Canada via their website and, unlike most Christmases in recent memory, the Canadian dollar has climbed high enough recently to warrant some American-based online shopping before the New Year.

Aside from crateandbarrel.com, visit the trendier, youthful version of the store named CB2.com. While only one retail location of this new concept store exists in the suburbs of Chicago, CB2.com also ships to Canada and offers funky, modern takes on home décor.

To keep proper track of the hours of anticipation before a turkey dinner, for example, try CB2.com's Silver Time Square Wall Clock. The sleek square design of the timepiece is given a fresh twist with the unique placement of numbers and the inclusion of only the digits 11, 3 and 6 instead of the usual quartet: 12, 3, 6 and 9. The varnished metal wall clock retails for USD$69.

Depending on budget and location, it shouldn't be too difficult to pick up a few great gifts this holiday season. Music aficionados, bookworms and creative cooks all yearn for thoughtful presents that not only surprise but also appeal to their particular interests. Whether it's a click away or a simple visit to your local bookstore, great gifts are not hard to find—even if it's hard to find time to buy them.

Josh Murray is a Vancouver-based writer, ad exec. and all-around good time. For more log onto www.joshmurray.ca



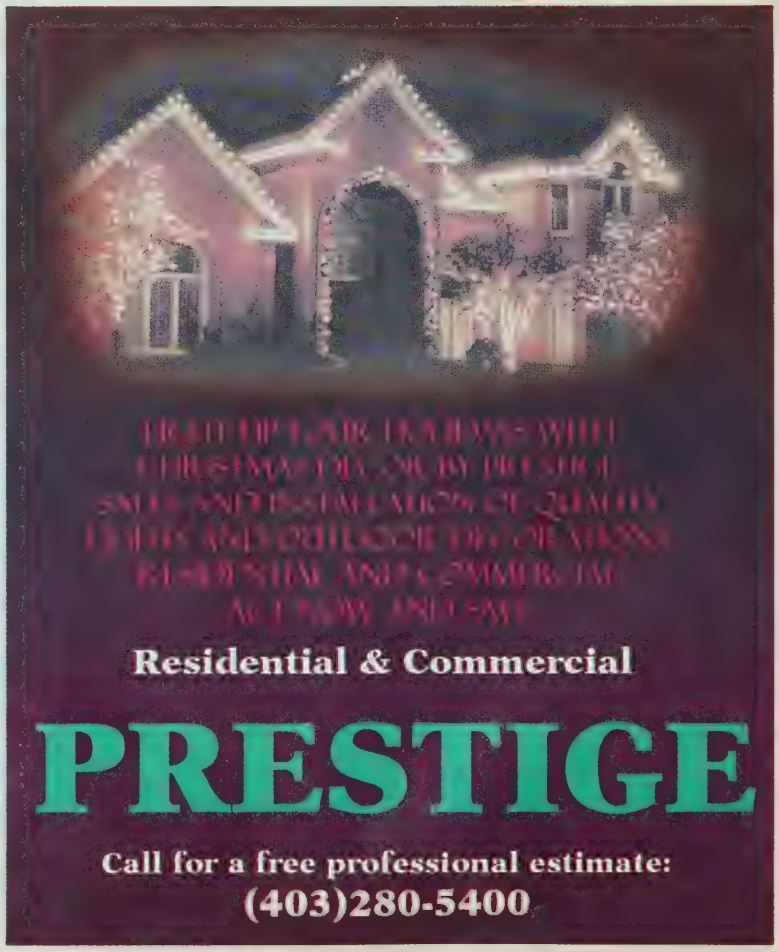
TORONTO

Dr. Keith Book Launch
ZELDA'S

I'm Not Answering That—Read The Book!
Dr. Keith Loukes, author of Ask Dr. Keith, addresses the crowd at his Toronto book launch.

Dr. Keith Is Great... And If Anyone Says Otherwise I'm Gonna Give Him A Knuckle Sandwich!
Man-about-town and media personalityMathieu Chantelois gives pal Dr. Keith Loukes a ringing endorsement.

Media Partners
PrideVision TV's Jason Hughes (right) was on hand to help Dr. Keith make a smooth transition from broadcast to print. Dr. Keith's new advice show is expected to hit PVTV's airwaves sometime in the new year.



This little piggy went to market, this little piggy stayed home and this little piggy said, "all these planets in Sagittarius this December will pack my month with more Outrageous fun than I think I can handle." Wee wee wee!

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 20)

Ever the intrepid explorer, proud Rams will set off on new adventure this December. Wilde planets in Sagittarius will spark your imagination and not let you rest—and nor should you: *anything* you decide to do will be infused with new exotic and exciting stimuli. What (and who) is waiting for you around the corner? Don't rest until you have tasted every dish. Pack the Pepto, just in case...

TAURUS (APRIL 21 – MAY 21)

There is someone who intrigues you—someone mysterious and sexy. Queer Bulls won't know what hit them as planets in Sag tempt them with all sorts of sensual delicacies. However, there *is* a chance that you will overdo and wind up on New Year's Eve cocooning in your safe haven. Then again, if you go with the planetary flow now, you'll cocoon with someone very special that night.

GEMINI (MAY 22 – JUNE 21)

Your gift this December will be your close relationship with a certain someone. Have you been all that you should be in a partnership? Transformations are possible, as new liaisons can be forged and a complete upheaval of "business as usual" can occur. Lucky planets in Sag will give you a rare opportunity to inject some fresh fun into an otherwise stale situation. Now, just how fresh can you be?!

CANCER (JUNE 22 – JULY 23)

Just when you thought that you could escape from the day to day, five planets in Sagittarius will pull you back into the office. Oh, well—hang a bit of mistletoe in your cubicle and hop on the Xerox machine. Office party like there is no tomorrow. And while you burn the midnight oil, take a gander at the office pool... there may be someone you want to goose.

LEO (JULY 24 – AUGUST 23)

I shudder to think about what extreme mischief proud Lions can—and will— get into this December. There will be five planets in Sag ready to let you out of your cage and lead you astray. Anything creative, artistic and just plain fun will take you to new levels, new stratospheres and new galaxies. Hold on tight, darling! Indulge yourself with some long yearned-for treats. Ahem... anyone we know?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 – SEPTEMBER 23)

December may be the month that you get your domestic situation in order. If you have sat on long term plans to renovate or redecorate, this will be the time to implement them. Five planets in Sagittarius will give you vision, hope and a bit of luck. Who knows what sort of pink palace you will construct? Add a bit of Christmas frosting and have a celebratory party for New Year's.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 23)

You'll *ache* to express yourself this December, but carefully weigh your words before you blurt them out and embarrass yourself. The are five planets in brutally frank and honest Sagittarius and you may be less diplomatic than usual. Gay Libras may suddenly find themselves on the front page and at the centre of a controversy. Just imagine where you can find yourself in January...!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 22)

Money can be made ... and lost ... this December, as reckless planets in Sagittarius will tempt you to have fun, fun, fun and forget about tomorrow. Proud Scorps will be more plutocrat than democrat now and will be ready to splurge their surplus on a vague promise and a prayer. Will it be worth it all? If not, you may just find that you have a bright future in Washington these days, anyway.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 – DECEMBER 22)

This will be the month to make your big move in whichever area of life you choose. Which area *will* you choose? Chalk up your wide range of opportunities to too many rowdy planets in your own sign, as they'll encourage you to take big risks that, much to even your own surprise, will offer ample payoff and better personal positioning. Spread your holiday gifts around, gay Archer.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 – JANUARY 20)

Fate will tap you on the shoulder and ask for directions, but don't send this poor soul on a detour. Use December and the Sag energy for the higher orders of life: spiritual and cosmic goals and charitable efforts. While it may be fashionable to be greedy and self-serving these days, pink Caps will find themselves in a win-win situation. *Doing* good will result in *receiving* good... and that is very good, indeed.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians will be on the top of everyone's wish list this December, jolted in popularity by Sag planets. Are you going to be naughty or nice? Prepare for an avalanche of invitations and look for ways to expand your social circle into a globe. You have places to see and people to meet and some of them *will* impact your life for years to come. Prepare to be a bit impactful yourself.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 – MARCH 20)

Don't rest on your laurels this December. Guppies will be given a rare push to the top of the corporate heap. This happy oomph is sponsored by Sagittarius—who knows no bounds, has great optimism and confidence and offers limitless energy. Lucky thing. Grab for the gold ring as you show the powerful few what raw talent looks like. Hurry—raw goes bad after a few days.

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OK
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GLCSA would like to take this opportunity to thank Twigs for their generous donation to the Impressions Art Show. As well, many thanks to everyone who has donated to GLCSA, directly or through United Way, and to all our members and volunteers who have contributed to our success in 2004.
We wish you and yours the very best during this holiday season!

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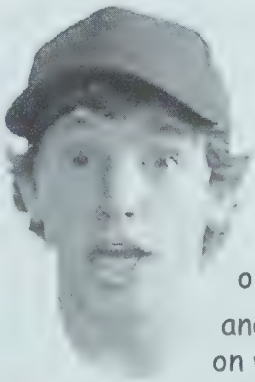

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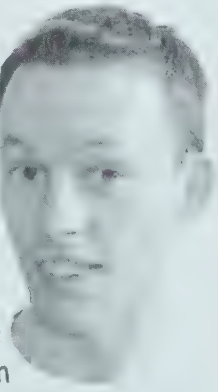

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Dear FREDDY

Dear Freddy,

My sister is very upset with me and, to be honest, I actually don't blame her. She has a right to be angry. My partner and I are spending the holidays with my parents for the first time in our three-year relationship. The thing that's upsetting my sister is that Bob and I are allowed to sleep in the same room—in the same bed—while she and her fiancé (this will be their second Christmas at my folks' place since becoming engaged) have to sleep in separate rooms on separate floors of the house! My mother's stance is "Not under my roof before they're married...", but that doesn't apply to Bob and me. My sister, who's only four years younger than me (I'm twenty-seven) is furious and threatening to "boycott Christmas" at my parents' house. I hate that I'm the cause of all this and don't want to spoil the holidays; do you have any advice? I'm trying to be "big" about all this, even though I'm secretly quite thrilled by the double standard.

Sincerely,

Bob 'n' Andy

Dear Andy,

First of all, let me just say that if you were *my* son (I know, I know—let's just run with it, shall we?) I wouldn't let you anywhere near a boyfriend of any description if it made you sign your letters Andy '*n*' anyone... but I guess that's beside the point. What *is* the point, is that you're worrying needlessly about being big (in this instance it doesn't count) when really you should be gloating. At this point—or maybe even, say, *never*—you cannot marry your partner, and your mother knows this so she's cutting the pair of you a bit of holiday slack. Your sister, on the other hand, *is* able to marry (and will do so very soon, I would imagine) and your mother probably thinks it won't do her any harm to wait until she is "Mrs. So-and-So" to sleep in the same bed as her hubby over Christmas. Besides, your mom knows you 'n' Bob don't have the balls to make protein-based "Dalmatian spots" all over her freshly laundered flannel sheets during the celebration of our Holy Saviour's birth—am I right? Of course I am. Now, your *sister* on the other hand... why, those dirty heteros will do it any*where*, any*time* with any*one*, because it's all about sex with them, isn't it? See, I knew you'd agree. Happy holidays, you lucky homo(s), you.

Hugs

Fred

Dear Freddy,

I'm having some trouble (I guess you could call it that) with one of the guys I'm screwing around with right now. The thing is, he's a "screamer" in bed and can't seem to control himself—and now I've had two noise complaints from my neighbours. It's getting embarrassing: the other day I had to tell the building manager that I was having digestive problems and the noises were me suffering from an acid reflux attack while I was in bed! I really like this guy and we're having great sex (obviously), but I'm worried he's going to get me evicted. Do you have any suggestions?

The Strong, Silent Type

Dear Strong, Silent,

I guess my first question is that, if Mr. Noisebox is causing you and your neighbours so much grief, why don't you just screw him at *his* place? I guess that might have occurred to you or you wouldn't be facing a third (or greater) noise complaint, huh? The problem with most "screamers" is that they don't realize quite how loud they really are, and also the noise aspect is usually an integral part of their "release", so it's rather hard to ask them to curb that. ("Excuse me, but would you mind just coming *a little bit*, please?")

Listen S.S. (ha-ha—get it?), there are a few things you can do, not the least of which involves duct tape or a pair of socks—but maybe you're just not that "kinky". Have you ever considered turning your pal into a "spit roast"? You know, have someone take care of his piehole while you... well, you get the picture. And don't act all shocked, Strong, Silent, I'm sure you're slutty enough (I quote: "... *one* of the guys I'm screwing around with") to work this kind of thing out.

Have you ever considered filling your room with shelves of books and telling him it's a library? Maybe that'd keep him quiet... Failing all that, I've always found that a bit of peanut butter can keep me orally occupied *forever*, although if you put a big glob of Skippy in his mouth and then "revisit that area", you *do* run the risk of having your wiener smell like something manufactured by the good people at Reese's for days afterwards. Hell, I don't know what the answer is—anyone else have any brilliant ideas to share before S.S. gets evicted on the grounds of "nocturnal acid reflux attacks"? Let me know...

Kisses on your pink parts

Fred

Dear Freddy

Regarding the letter from the guy who breathed 'spray' at the baths in Toronto: it is aerosol poppers. It was for sale in the U.S.—and must still be—and it will indeed give you a great "rush". Too much can make you black out and/or see things; however, in the right dose, I find it is much better (i.e.: less harsh) than regular poppers and a lot more fun. I'm saying this mainly because the aerosol gives you a few minutes' worth of feeling stoned or high, which regular poppers just don't do for me.

David Y.

Vancouver

Hi Freddy!

In the November issue I read the letter from that guy, SM#2, who was wondering what kind of stuff he had inhaled; the answer is ethyl chloride (chloroethane). It is sold as "head cleaning solvent", but if you want to know more about the product you can do a search using Google and you find the real use...

Truly yours,

Jacques

Dears Jacques and David,

Many thanks for the information; I'm sure SM#2 will be thrilled to hear what it was he inhaled on that fateful night. As for kicks, I've got you all beat: the cat down the street sprays his scent on the tree by my house and one sniff sends me to la-la land—you should try it sometime, it'll make you buggier than an outhouse rat…

Lotsa love to you both,

Freddy ▼

Write to me, Dears

All letters become property of Outlooks and are subject to editing.
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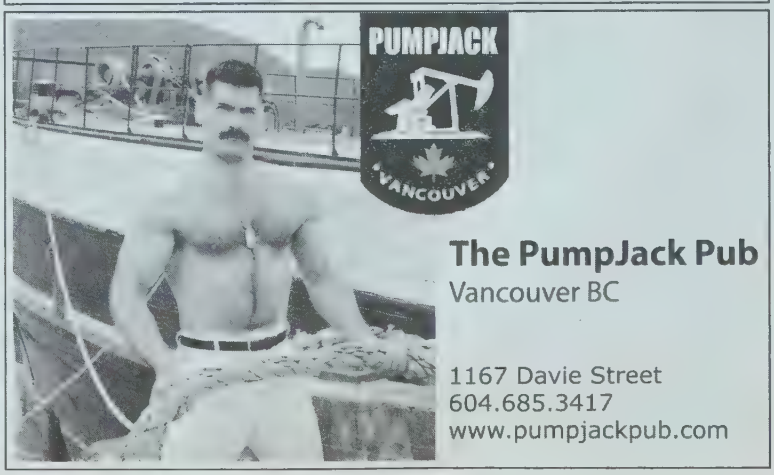


Getting to know you better

By Outlooks Staff

Thanks to the survey in the October issue of the magazine, we have gained even more information about *Outlooks* readers. Increased to a more comprehensive two pages last year, the expanded questionnaire provides us with more detailed information about reader preferences in everything from the magazine's content to consumer spending habits. Once again this year we saw a significant rise in response from readers in smaller cities and towns, thanks to a more streamlined Web response option. Although there was a great deal of *new* information shared in the 2004 survey, a lot of what we've come to know about our readers remained the same—what is generally known as "the good stuff" when it comes to cultural stereotypes!

Outlooks' overwhelmingly large (94 percent) male readership is comprised of (mainly) out professionals who live in urban areas. They are well-educated, well-travelled (business *and* pleasure) and exactly half (bang-on 50 percent) earn $40,000 or more annually. Most of our readers (70 percent) do not read daily tabloid or broadsheet newspapers, and a copy of *Outlooks* is read on average by 3.1 people. A significant number (32 percent) of you make a major retail purchase of at least $500 four or more times per year, and also dine out frequently (29 percent four or more times per week). When you travel, your preferences rank highest with hotels (51 percent) and bed and breakfast establishments (31 percent). This year, a whopping 51 percent of our respondents said they were homeowners, while more than 50 percent owned their own vehicle or vehicles. In terms of cosmetic or surgical procedures, 26 percent said they would invest in laser eye surgery, followed by 18% who would consider liposuction. Facelifts (11 percent), laser resurfacing (8 percent), and chemical peels (6 percent) rounded out the category. Fully 31 percent of you said you would opt for an *au naturel* appearance.

When it comes to the question of same-sex marriage, those who submitted questionnaires were close to being equally split on the issue, with 46 percent saying they would marry, were that option available to them, and 54 percent reporting that they would not enter into that venerable old institution with a partner even if it were legally recognized.

For interest sake, further information on reader demographics can be found below. *Outlooks* management and staff would like to thank all those who took the time to fill out this year's longer survey; the information you provided is invaluable when it comes to making editorial decisions and informing potential advertisers about the nature of our readership. ▼

OUTLOOKS READER SURVEY RESPONSES

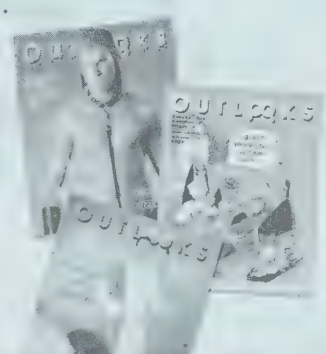
Openly gay	Semi-closeted	Closeted	Bisexual
55%	37%	2%	6%

Downtown/Urban	Suburban	Rural
63%	26%	11%

Condo	House	Townhouse	Other
37%	29%	8%	26%

Other local publications read:

GayCalgary.Com: 3% *Wayves*: 17% *Xtra! West*: 13%
Xtra!: 8% *Georgia Straight*: 15% *fab*: 22%
Perceptions: 8% *ffwd*: 6%



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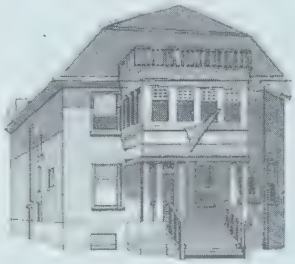
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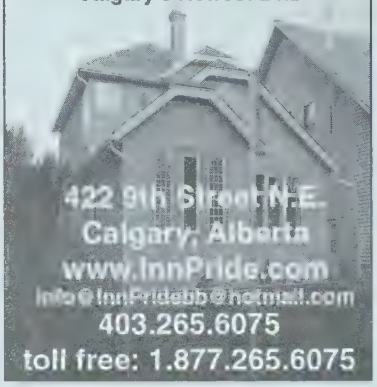
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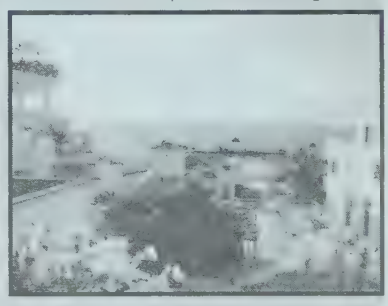
OUTLOOKS' FEATURE INN

This year, enjoy a Mexican vacation the Boana Torre Malibu, gay Puerto Vallarta's largest "straight-friendly" basic modern condo-hotel. Torre Malibu is located one block directly behind the world famous blue and green chairs on the beach known as Playa Los Muertos. It is a short, quiet walk to all the great nightlife and restaurants.

The property has a large selection of rooms that are actually condos! It's more like having a suite for your vacation than just a hotel room. All units have a bedroom, two baths, a kitchen and salon with balcony or terrace. One unit has two bedrooms. All rooms are air-conditioned. An elevator makes access to even those top floor views easy.

Onsite is gay Vallarta's largest pool. In the office next to the pool, you'll find information on the many things that you can do during your stay, including tours, day cruises, horseback riding, restaurant reservations—everything to help make your vacation easy, comfortable , convenient and *fun*. French, Spanish and English are spoken by our staff.



Pictured upper right: the Boana Torre's pool; below, the view of the ocean from one of the rooms; left, inside condo B2-5, in the complex's second building

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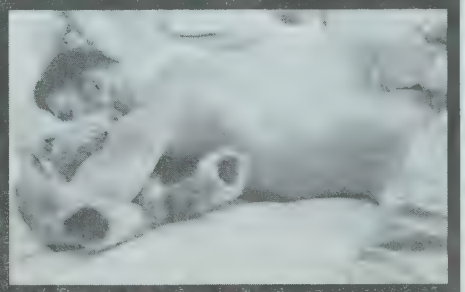
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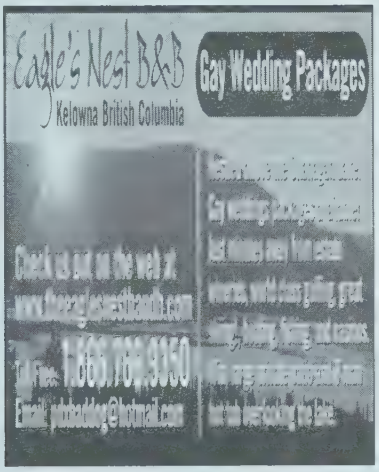

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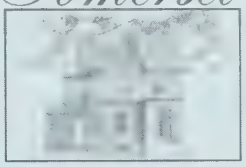

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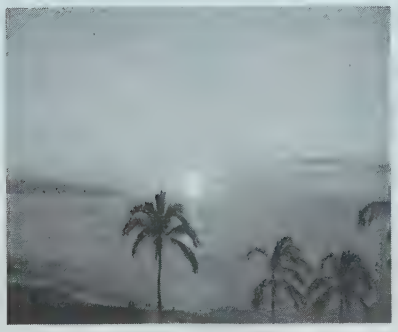

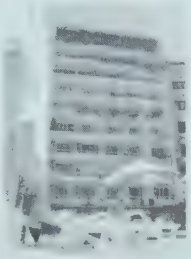

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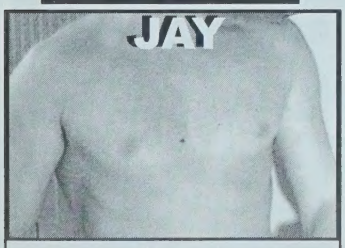

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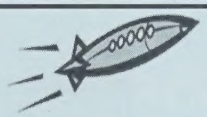

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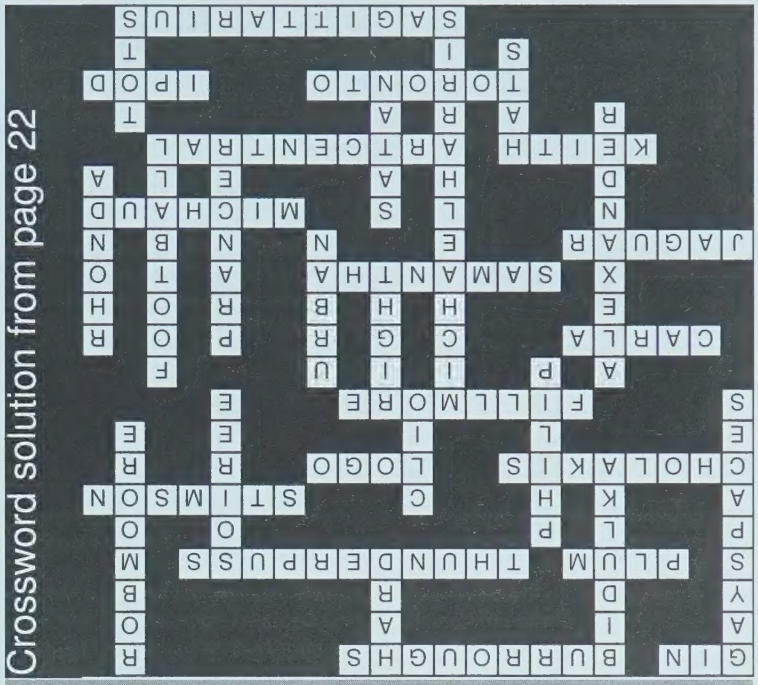
Crossword solution from page 22



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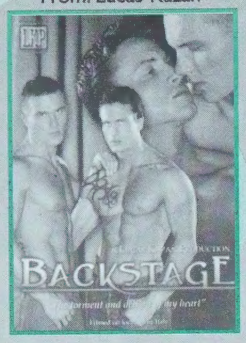
Backstage

From: Lucas Kazan



Featuring: Sasha Byazrov, Giorgio Salieri, Matthias Vannelli, Max Veneziano, Eric Flower, Mario Perez, David Havien, David Scott, Ricky Martinez

Running Time: 75 minutes

A backstage pass to almost any performance is exciting, but this one is *guaranteed* to provide a memorable experience. Both the cast and crew are some of the hottest studs you can imagine and the on-camera performances are worthy of several encores. The lighting and sets prove that not all the talent in this movie is limited to the performers, and the behind-the-scenes guys have a big hand in this production. Shot on location in Italy with some of Europe's sexiest men, and some great artistic backup, this movie will leave you wanting more when it comes time for the final credits to roll.

In a convincing performance, Sasha plays a slightly inebriated stud who finds three very attractive young men about to perform onstage. From the wings, he observes their three-way performance—and he's especially interested in how Mario uses his ten inches to dominate the scene. Any Latino that is this well-hung is destined for stardom and Sasha enjoys every moment of the show. With Giorgio and Eric helping Mario, their supporting roles don't go unnoticed and their talents impress Sasha.

When the camera moves to an empty restaurant, it's not hard to imagine the feast that is about to be served. Proudly displaying his amazing tattoos, Max Vannelli is an entrée no one could resist. His good looks, muscular body and enormous attribute make him a 'perfect ten' to behold. His chosen partner, Eric Flower, demonstrates he can easily take everything Max can give. In their scene together, "laying the table" has a whole new meaning!

Newcomer Ricky Martinez strips for the camera and proves that an Italian sculpture will easily come to life—for just the right crew. This hottie bears an amazing resemblance to the 'famous' Ricky M. and his perfect, muscular form is tantalizing under the stage lights. Ricky's solo performance is worthy of an award, one that electrifies all beholders; it's certain to win all the hearts in the studio and create some amazing wet dreams later. Matthias watches from a catwalk high above, and when he descends to stage level, the next performance is inevitable.

This movie is your ticket backstage to an absolutely first-class show full of long-lasting memories. There's no intermission to spoil the mood and you'll definitely be cheering for an encore from this amazingly talented, hot cast. A big hand to Lucas Kazan for an amazing production from top to bottom—a must-see for anyone's film list. Hurry up and pay the price, smother your snack in hot butter, relax and enjoy the show.

Review Sponsored by Express Video
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RATING: *OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS*

MUSIC: ★★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★(★)
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★(★)
SET: ★★★★★
STORY: ★★★★

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